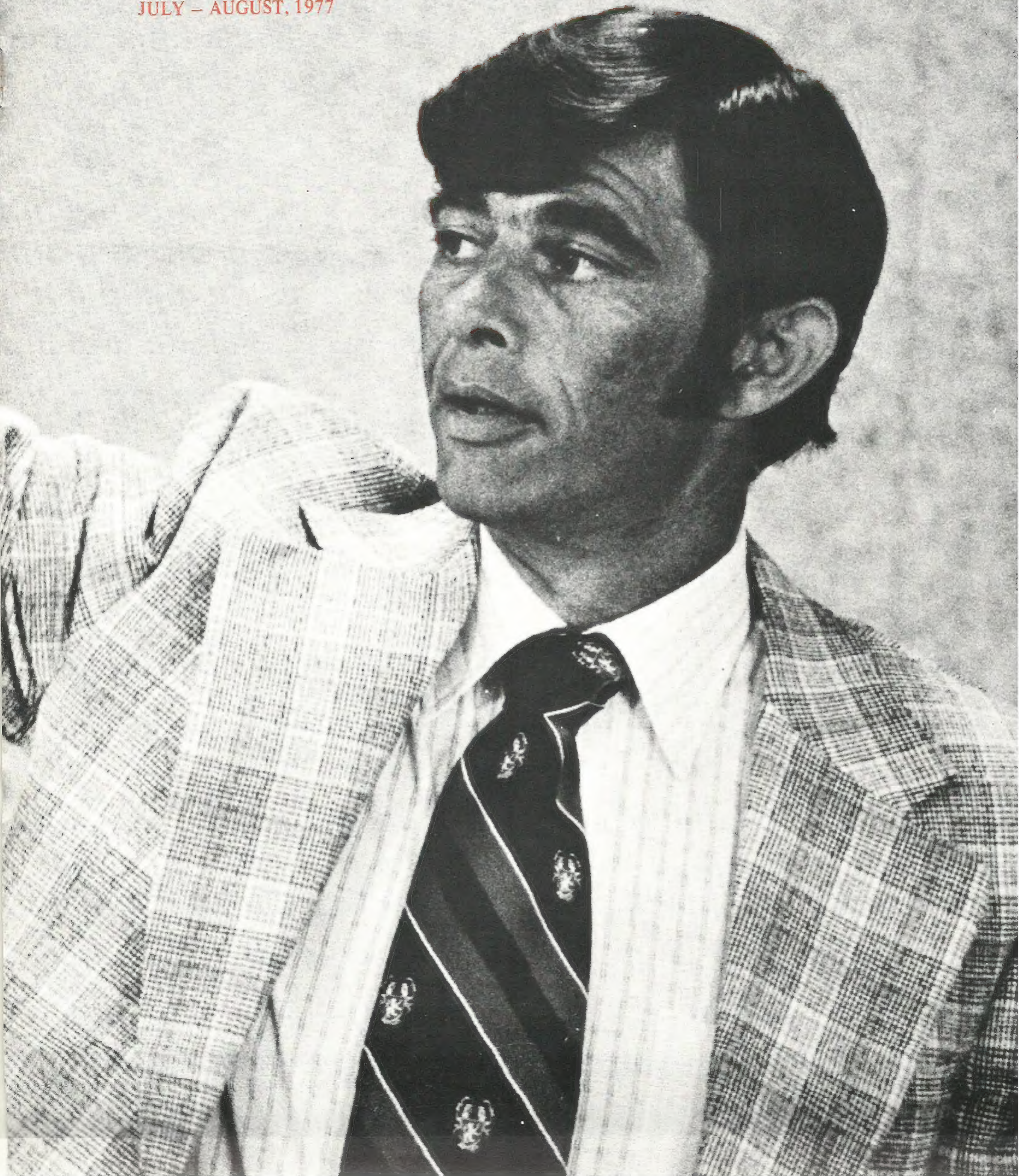


PLAIN TALKS

JULY - AUGUST, 1977



WELCOME ABOARD

SYSTEM DEPARTMENT

Accounting Services

Curtis, Linda K., Bmt, Clerk - Plant
Reeder, Elizabeth C., Bmt, Clerk - Plant
Hunter, Isabella H., Bmt, Billing Clerk - Sys Billing

Material Services

Snapp, Cheryl B., Bmt, Clerk - Overall

Information & Data Services

Glaze, Lou S., Bmt, Dept Clerk - Recds-Dupl
Sprinkle, Kathy D., Bmt, Dept Clerk - Recds

Technical Services

Barbosa, Elvira M., Bmt, Stenographer

BEAUMONT DIVISION

Division Production

Bolen, Richard A., Bmt, Operator's Helper - Neches Sta-Operns

Distribution

King, Doyle D., Silsbee, Lineman 2/C-T&D/Line

Division Accounting

Greer, Tommie S., Orange, Meter Reader-Cust Accts
Calhoun, David G., Vidor, Meter Reader-Cust Accts
Thibodeaux, Nancy W., Orange, PBX Operator-Overall

PORT ARTHUR DIVISION

Division Production

Braus, James E., Pt Arth, Eqpt Oper-Sab Sta-Operns

Division Accounting

Hebert, Paul W., Pt Arth, Laborer I-Stores

WESTERN DIVISION

Distribution

Pittman, Douglas W., Conroe, Laborer I-T&D/Lab Crws-Line
Floyd, Tommy L., Conroe, Laborer I-T&D/Lab Crws-Line

Division Accounting

Sheats, Bobby M., N Caney, Meter Reader-Cust Accts

BATON ROUGE DIVISION

Division Production

Augustus, Wayne L., B Rouge, Laborer I-La Sta-Lab Crws
Messina, Stephen R., B Rouge, Laborer I-La Sta-Lab Crws

Distribution

Winstead, Carolyn M., B Rouge, Dept Clerk-T&D/Engr

LAKE CHARLES DIVISION

Division Production

Kramer, Elizabeth S., L Chas, Mechanic Helper-Nelson Sta/Test

Distribution

Mixon, Murrel L., L Chas, Dept Clerk-T&D/Engr

Division Accounting

Goodie, Sandy A., Lafayette, Clerk-Cust Accts

PLAIN TALKS

Volume 55 - Number 6

July - August, 1977

Pat McMeel, ABC
Editor

Ken Haynie, Artist

Published Monthly By Public Relations Dept. - James S. Turner, Director

INDEX

WELCOME ABOARD

Page 2

STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP

Ten men make up an executive directed "Think Tank" to analyze how the Company can best meet the demands of the future.

Page 6

GSU NEWS

CONTACT: New employee information program
Retired VP shows actives how to play golf
Jennings employee elected mayor
Ed Barnes invents safety rail for trucks
Quick thinking saves two lives

Page 11

RETIREMENTS

Five men end careers with Company

Page 13

DEATHS

Company mourns loss of three retirees

Page 14

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Twenty-eight employees involved in changes

Page 20

SERVICE AWARDS

Photos of those earning 10, 20, 30 and 40 year pins

Page 35

COFFEE CUP

This 'N That about employees and their families

INSIDE BACK COVER

Best Shot . . . super dragster on the line

THE COVER:

Larry Humphreys, executive assistant and co-chairman of the Strategic Planning Group, describes what the group is, its purpose and what the group considers as main priorities in attempting to meet the challenges of the future.

GULF STATES UTILITIES CO.

P. O. Box 2951

Beaumont, Texas 77704

Member:
 Houston

Strategic Planning Group

(Editor's note: The Strategic Planning Group is composed of Larry Humphreys, chairman; Bill Malec, co-chairman; Brandon Bryan, secretary; Charles Glass, Joe Bondurant, Al Naylor, Les Moor, Jim Derr, Bob Jackson, and J. R. Murphy or his designate. Following is an interview with Humphreys as he talks about the group, and what that group is doing.)

Q. What is the Strategic Planning Group and its function?

A. The group was formed by Mr. (Floyd) Smith, Mr. (Norman) Lee and Mr. (Thomas) Page, primarily to do two things: (1) to make sure various in-house departments are working in concert together, in the same direction, rather than at cross purposes; (2) to help chart the best direction for the Company to meet the future.

Q. Is there one primary objective, specifically, other than general guidance?

A. There are three prime objectives: (1) to maintain financial integrity; (2) to feed the generation units we have now . . . that is to build a fuel reserve for those units; and (3) to plan our future generation needs and find a way to accomplish that construction.

These objectives can only be reached by all employees and departments working together toward a defined goal. To reach those goals via a viable plan is the purpose of the Strategic Planning Group.

Q. How do you go about determining this plan of action?

A. To begin with, we had to establish the priorities. The first of these, certainly the most important, is to maintain financial integrity. Without financial integrity, we can't accomplish anything. So, we began a review of our financial situation and what it would take to improve it in view of recent rate decisions made in Louisiana.

In order to build new facilities and maintain present facilities, the Company's financial requirements aren't much different from ours as individuals. We can spend whatever we make and whatever we can borrow. Also, we can borrow as much as an intelligent lender thinks will be paid back, with interest, at some pre-determined time. When you get beyond that point, you can't spend any more. If you can't make it or can't borrow it, you can't spend it.

Q. Since approximately 60 percent of the Company's construction budget must be raised externally, it appears that the Company's ability to obtain financing hinges on how effectively the remaining 40 percent is raised internally. What effect did the adverse regulatory decision in Louisiana have on our plans?

A. The Louisiana Public Service Commission's decision to grant nothing in the way of rate increases formalized the Strategic Planning Group. The LPSC ruling is not the only problem we face; but, it certainly is the most serious to both our investors and our customers.

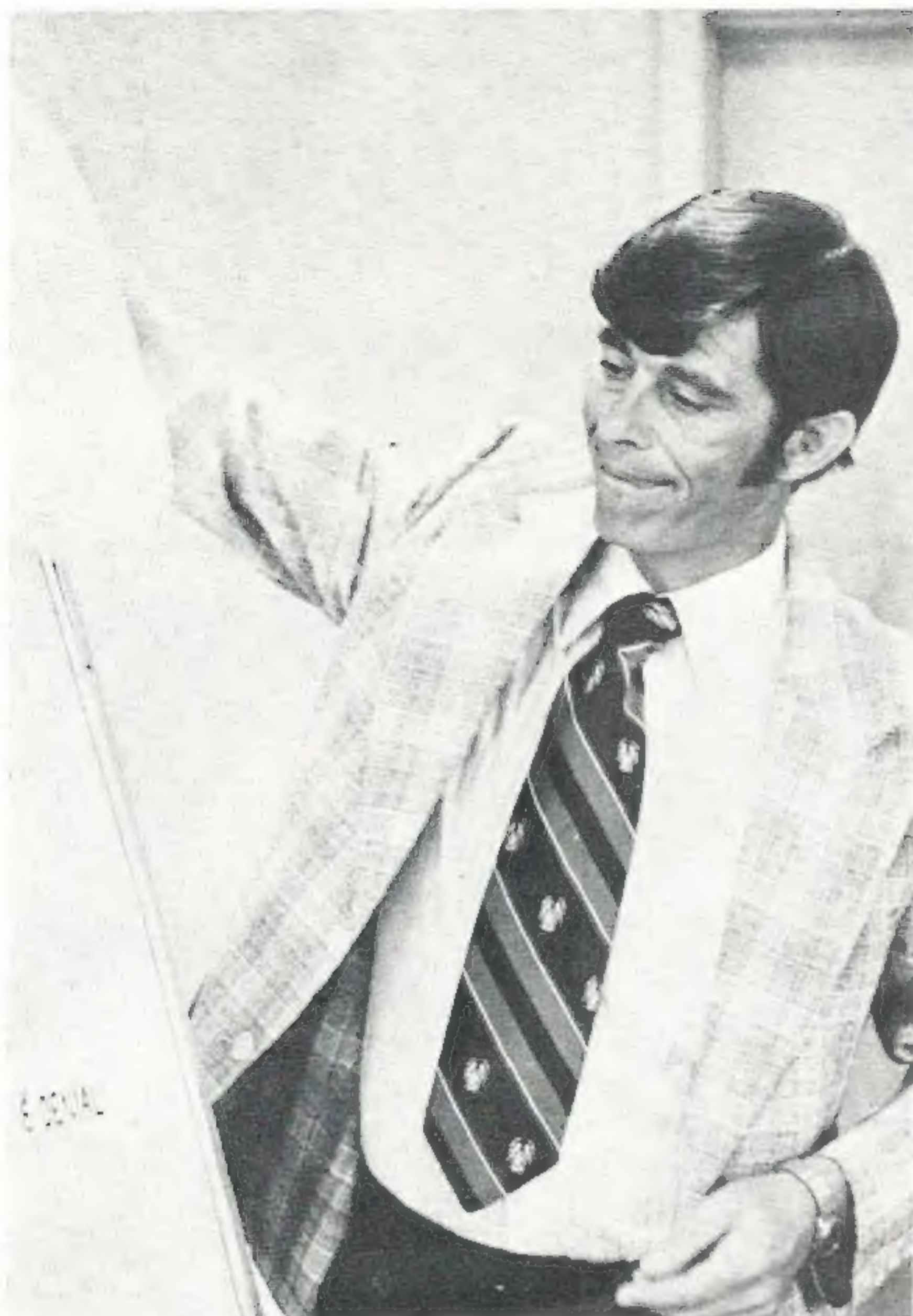
The reason people buy stock is that they are looking for earnings on their investment. GSU competes with every other utility, other industries and government for money. Investors look for their best balance of risk and rate of return. In 1973, GSU was among the top financially-rated electric utilities. Today, we are not in that position. The reason for this is that we have not been earning as much per share as we should to support our construction program. We are spending more and bringing in less on a ratio basis.

Q. So how do we turn this around?

A. We can sell stock or borrow via bond issues. But if we sell more stock now, it will be below the book value. If we borrow now, we run a very high risk that the Company would be de-rated. If Wall Street cannot maintain GSU as a AA company due to higher risk, it would take the Company years of superior performance to get back that rating. We don't want to lose that rating for obvious reasons — it means a much higher interest rate on money we need to borrow, which ultimately means higher costs for our customers. There is only one way to turn these financial indicators around. We have to have a plan to balance our construction expenditures with our earnings. This balance should also return our common stock price back where it belongs.



Bill Malec, co-chairman



Q. How do you do that?

A. We have to compromise. We have to find an acceptable plan to bring about two things — limited spending and better income. This will turn the earnings per share around, allow increased dividends and increase the value of the stock. To do this, our income has to go up prior to going to the securities market. Increased income can only come through increased sales of electricity (which, if too high, has the unfortunate side effect of requiring increased plant investment) or increased rates.

Q. In terms of generation, how do we stand?

A. This time last year, the Company had predicted a five percent, compounded annually, growth in peak load. That's what we planned for in 1975 with Nelson #5, River Bend #1, Nelson #6 and River Bend #2 coming on line following Sabine #5 in 1979. We had planned for all this generation to be in commercial operation in 1985, and then retire Louisiana Station . . . a very nice plan which required about \$350 million each year, 1977 through 1979. The total budget for these three years had been set at \$1.1 billion approximately. We arrived at this after many runs of the computerized corporate model to see what we would need in terms of financing, rate increases and so on. This was before the Louisiana rate decision.

In light of what has happened, including the 14-month lag time it took the LPSC to announce its decision, we have decided now that in order to turn the financial indicators around, we must limit our construction spending and cut some \$350 million out of the program. So, 1977's budget was reduced to \$250 million. And, assuming the worst, that budget will remain the same through at least 1978. That sounds like we really cut back, but remember, \$250 million is still more than we have ever spent before. It's not a question of the Company shrinking, but whether our ability to grow will limit the region's growth.

Q. If \$1.1 billion were projected as being needed over the next three years to meet a five percent load growth, what happens now that we can't invest that much money in needed facilities?

A. Today, we are carrying a reserve generation capability of about 28 percent — at least on paper. But not all of our units are always operating at one time. That 28 percent figure is the reserve if all the units were running at capacity. The units are, after all, machinery. Machinery needs maintenance and even the greatest care will not keep them from breaking down or being taken down for needed routine work. Our availability has fallen short of expectation; but, we are going to get those units in top shape and keep them that way. However, this reserve can only support additional load for a limited time. Once again, we come back to those all-important financial indicators. We have to get them turned around in time, via additional income, before that reserve gets too low to handle the demand.

That's why favorable regulatory decisions are so important. We have been planning on rate increases to match inflation in order to keep up. Louisiana turned us down flatly on a rate increase and took 14 months to do it. Texas approved only about one-half of what we asked for. As a result, our ratio of capital expenditures to earnings is out of balance.

Getting it back in balance in the most efficient manner is what the Strategic Planning Group is all about. We are trying to determine how best to do this — by further rate increase filings, by limiting our spending, by selling some assets, and by generally reducing our money market needs. Overall, I'm optimistic that we can do this. I think we'll end up continuing to be a very strong utility. It'll take time — we have some problems to work out; but, I'm confident that our people can do the job.





Joe Budd, senior engineering assistant, explains rate relief and why Company needs it.

CONTACT: Employee Information Program Is Underway In System

CONTACT, a new employee information program designed to have a small group of Gulf Staters brief their fellow employees on the challenges facing the Company, was kicked off when 28 participants gathered at the Red Carpet Inn in Beaumont for a two-day training session May 31 and June 1.

The training was conducted by Reddy Communications, Inc., for the purpose of preparing the Contact group to conduct a series of issues briefings with their fellow employees throughout the system. Subject of the first series of meetings is the need for rate relief and the regulatory climate of our area.

"We came up with this program," said Jim Turner, director of Public Relations, "because we feel it is extremely important for all our employees to know the problems that face our Company today, and what we are trying to do about them. Contact, then, is really an exten-

sion of employee communications programs that we have been carrying forward for years. We know that well informed Gulf Staters are excellent communicators. We also know that most employees want all the information they can get."

Turner explained that since most employees have not been formally exposed to either issues or communications training, a special participative workshop would prove extremely beneficial to those selected. Reddy Communications, Inc., was called upon to provide this training with Ken W. Huskey, vice president of RCI, and Dr. Raymond Beaty, a communications specialist, conducting the sessions.

"As in any Company," said Turner, "employees have a lot of questions they want to ask about the Company, and they get a lot of questions from friends and neighbors. But many employees are

never able to get the answers directly. We hope this program will change that. As those who attended the sessions go back to their various divisions to present briefings, any questions they are unable to answer will be sent to the proper department and answered. With most briefings being conducted without management present, we believe the employee will be more at ease to open up if they have questions."

The 28 Contacters are located throughout the system. The Baton Rouge group consists of Linda Narcisse, stenographer, North Boulevard; Robert Dawson, Serviceman, Gas Department; Ronald Hunt, Lineman, T&D; Murray Greer, test technician, Louisiana Station; John Watlington, test technician, Willow Glen Station; Jeanette Roberts, local office clerk, Districts; and Stanley Pollins, serviceman.

(Continued on page 8)

Contact Q & A

(Editor's note: During the course of the "CONTACT" meetings, Gulf States ask some questions which the meeting leader is unable to answer. These questions are taken down by the group reporter and relayed to the Public Relations Department where they are answered and returned to the Contacter. Each month PLAIN TALKS will carry some of the most commonly asked questions.)

Q. What power companies are rated AAA?

A. Only three. Texas Power & Light, Dallas Power & Light and Texas Electric Service Company, all part of the Texas Utilities system.

Q. How does the fuel clause work?

A. Part of the fuel cost is embedded in our rates. If the price we have to pay exceeds that embedded figure, we pass the excess cost along to customers. We make no profit on the fuel adjustment, but if we didn't have it, we'd be asking for rate increases practically every month.

Q. Why does the business man have to pay for the surge of power on a demand meter due to a power failure?

A. It would be almost impossible to determine the amount of the surge for each customer and make an adjustment. Any adjustment to a class of customer would work against them at the time of a rate increase as rates would have to be increased at a higher level. So the very small revenue derived from these surges helps reduce the amount requested in future rate increase cases.

Q. The Louisiana Public Service Commission says we are using the turndown of the rate request as an excuse to stop building River Bend, which they also say was a "management mistake". What can we say about that?

A. They're dead wrong, and we believe they know they're wrong. In the first place, the future electricity supply of this country - and that means our standard of living and national defense - depends on energy. Electricity can be produced from a lot of fuels - gas, oil, coal, nuclear - but gas is getting scarcer and oil is expensive and we're already too dependent on imported oil. Until some breakthrough

on a new energy source, that leaves coal and nuclear. We plan to build River Bend and we plan to build coal units, and possibly lignite plants near our lignite leases in Texas. The rate denial just slowed us down; and this could eventually hurt Louisiana's economy.

Q. What are the profit %'s over the past five years?

A. 1972	12.37% (return on year end
1973	12.57% common equity)
1974	11.62%
1975	10.80%
1976	10.63%

Q. How do we compare to the other utility companies?

A. We are under them as they earn a little over 12% on average. In 1976, we earned 10.63% return on common stock equity.

Q. What is the difference in Texas residential rates and Louisiana residential rates?

A. Texas residential rates are 5-6% above Louisiana residential rates. Also there is a sales tax of 5% added to Texas rates so the total bills are about 10% above Louisiana residential bills. We did receive a partial rate increase in Texas in July, 1976. To date we have received no electric rate relief in Louisiana.

Q. When people ask about Varibus, what can I tell them?

A. Varibus Corporation, the wholly-owned subsidiary of our Company, was organized in April of 1970. Initial business ventures centered around the data processing and computer software field; however, in 1972 market conditions in those fields were poor and Varibus' management suspended further expansion in those areas.

By 1972 the shortage of boiler fuel had become our Company's leading challenge and Varibus became involved in the fuel acquisition program, including fuel exploration ventures.

Since 1972 Varibus has become increasingly involved in fuel acquisition and the organization now devotes the major part of its time to this vital operation.

Varibus is heavily involved in buying and reselling natural gas. It supplies a portion to the parent company at cost, for the Company's generation requirements. This activity has required investments in facilities to link generating stations to transmission pipelines. During 1975 Varibus acquired lignite deposits located in the immediate proximity north of our Texas service area. These deposits are available to be used as fuel for future generating units. Assets now are about \$33,200,000.

Q. How do we expect to achieve a four percent annual peak load growth?

A. For many years, Gulf States' annual peak load grew at a rate of 11% compounded annually, considerably faster than the national average. During the recent recession, load growth was negligible everywhere, in our case dropping to 2.1% in 1975. The country's economy is now recovering and our peak load growth this year (1977) should approximate 7%, largely due to earlier commitments to new industrial load.

The partial electric rate relief obtained in Texas in 1976 and the denial of rate relief in Louisiana means that, if no further relief is eminent in the next several years, the company can afford to finance construction of generating facilities that can handle about a 4% annual peak load growth.

To control this growth, the Marketing Department has undertaken a massive customer education program, stressing the elimination of less essential electrical services in industrial customers, shifting industrial load to off-peak periods (60% of our output goes to industry), and has encouraged conservation through insulation, more energy efficient building and home designs, weatherizing existing commercial and residential structures and emphasizing the need for using electric energy wisely and efficiently.

The four percent growth can be served by existing and planned generation, although there may be periods of time when reserve capacity will be less than 15%.



IS HONORED—Jerry McHam, consumer service representative in the Huntsville District, has been named Golden Key Clubber of the month by the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce. McHam was given the honor for the month of May by obtaining the highest dollar volume for new members to the Chamber.

Stokes Edges Out Chapman For Live Wires Golf Title

Jerry Stokes, retired vice president, had one of those days when, as a playing partner commented, "Even when he missed a shot the ball would still nearly roll into the hole." As a result, Stokes captured first place honors for low gross and for low net in his flight, to highlight the annual Memorial Day Golf Tournament held this year in Sulphur.

Some 60 entrants from four of the five divisions were on hand to challenge the 6418 yard Bayou Oaks Country Club course. Butch Franklin and Nig Laughlin, co-chairmen of the event, said they were pleased with the turnout, but added they could remember a time when 90 to 100 would sign up. Helping out during the day were Bill Richard, Joe Fontana, Dudley Clark and Jim Richardson. "They made things a lot easier for us," Franklin said.

Stokes, playing perhaps the best golf of his life, could do no wrong. His 78 strokes gave him a low net of 59, but the low net trophy went to JoAnne Hodges who equaled his 59 net. Since her handicap was much higher she was awarded the trophy.

Mike Chapman, playing in the first flight, also shot a low gross 78 but lost to Stokes when cards were compared. Stokes had a lower score on the second hole to edge out Chapman. Chapman did win closest to the hole on #5, while John Dewey captured similar honors on the 10th hole.

Ray Holm captured first flight honors with his low net 68. Chapman and Luish Winn, Jr., each had 69's, but Chapman won on the card. Fourth place went to Norman Lee with a low net 70, while fifth was won by Summa Stelly, who was beaten by Lee when cards were compared.

Lyle Gerac captured second flight honors with a net 67, while Nig Laughlin had to settle for second based on card comparison with Gerac. Third place went to J. B. Griscomb with a 68, who edged out Jack Kirkland when cards were matched. Gerald Bailey won fifth place with a low net 71.

Following Stokes in the third flight was Olice Steward with a net 63. Third place went to Butch Franklin with a 70, fourth was captured by Andy Poulson with 72, and Jack Shirey finished fifth with a net 73.

Fourth flight champion was Larry Davis with net 65. Carl Heubach was second at 68, and Rufus Mier nosed out Duane Abshire for third when his net 72 score was matched against Abshire's. Fifth place went to Jimmy Daigle with 73.

Fifth flight honors went to JoAnne Hodges with a super 59. Don Leland was a distant second at 72, the same as Ron Cunningham who was ranked third on matched cards. Fourth and fifth place ended in another tie with Art Curle getting fourth when his card was matched with Pat McMeel's.

Next year's tournament is scheduled for Orange.

FROM PAGE 6 **CONTACT Program**

From Beaumont came Johnnie Williams, serviceman, Silsbee; Paul Lane, engineering assistant, T&D; Willis Coon, lineman, T&D; Earl Landry, repairman 1st class, Neches Station; Wayne Broussard, storekeeper, Orange; and Jackie Hughes, customer accounting clerk, Beaumont.

From the Western Division the participants are George Hapes, communications serviceman first class, Conroe; and Willie Hoffart, lineman fourth class, Conroe. Lake Charles Division representatives are Edward Brawner, engineering assistant, Service Center; John Landry, master repairman, Nelson Station; and Jeff Derouen, meterman first class, Lafayette.

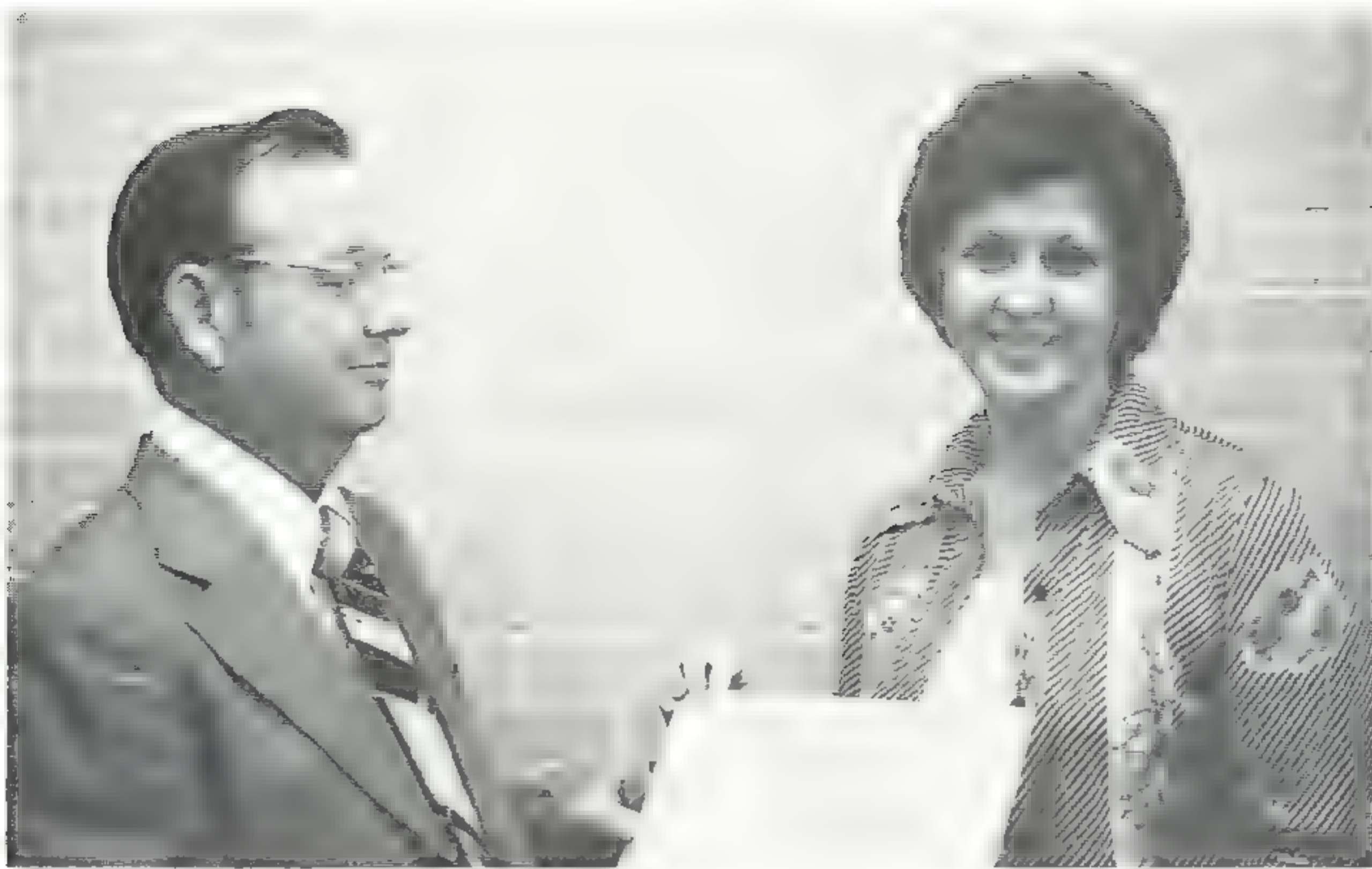
Port Arthur Contacters are Clovis Harris, master test technician, Sabine Station; Richard Guyote, equipment operator, Sabine Station; and Edward Retherford, substation mechanic, T&D. System participants are Dora Hebert,

general clerk, Accounting Services; Ethel Glenn, general clerk; Joe Budd, senior engineering assistant; Fran Sattler, tabulation clerk, IDS; Dude Marshall, senior clerk, Records Management; Betty Raines, departmental clerk, Records Management; and Nancy Nesbitt, general clerk.

Future subjects will be largely determined by the employees themselves who will be asked to list what issues they would like to have discussed.

"Quite frankly," said one of the group, "once our friends realize this is a much needed information program, the briefings will get even better."

As an additional communications effort, each issue of PLAIN TALKS will carry a column called CONTACT—Questions & Answers (see page seven of magazine) in which all employees will be able to benefit from the questions asked.



PUR GRAD—Ray Pace, as one of his last duties before taking over as Vidor Superintendent, presents Evelyn Lawrence with her certificate of completion of a correspondence course offered by Public Utilities Reports, Inc. Ms. Lawrence is a departmental clerk in the Mid-County office, and has been an employee for 11 years.

Garman: Jennings Mayor

Melvin Garman, senior engineering assistant in Jennings, has been elected mayor by nearly a 2-1 majority.

Garman, a veteran of 40 years with the Company, collected 62.4 percent of the votes cast, and was sworn in on July 1. He is scheduled to take retirement on Nov. 1 from GSU.

Hutt Reed, district superintendent in Jennings, said, "Melvin will do a good job. We're happy to see him get in."

Garman's major campaign issue was "Smoothing out city government and improving the mayor council relationship." Garman has been serving as a parish police juror for District 6, and has

resigned from that post since his election.

Garman is married to the former Bernie Love Allen of Meigs, Ga., and the couple has two children, Adele Horton of Ruston, La., and M. C. Garman of Fort Worth.

Long active in civic affairs, Garman is flood permit officer, chairman of the insurance committee and chairman of the priority committee. He is also on the courthouse committee, finance, Imperial Calcasieu fairgrounds and Acadian Ambulance committees. He is also a notary public and a former member of the Southwest Louisiana Law Enforcement Council.



Ed Barnes poses with his "SAFETY RAIL."

Richard Heads UA Campaign

William E. "Bill" Richard, Lake Charles Division Manager, has been named the 1977 general campaign chairman for Calcasieu United Appeals drive.

Richard will be responsible for the organization of the 1977 fund raising drive which provides money annually to help support 17 health and human services agencies in the southwest Louisiana Parish.

Richard is active in other civic work as a member of the board of directors of the Council for a Better Louisiana, the American Cancer Society and the Calcasieu Area Boy Scouts.

Barnes Invents New Safety Rail

A "near miss" accident has resulted in the invention of a device that could become a mandatory piece of equipment for all line trucks of GSU. It's called the Barnes Safety Rail.

On April 28, a lineman was trying to place his fiberglass tool carrier outside the bucket following a job. His foot slipped and he tumbled from the bucket over the cab of the truck and fell to the ground. He was not injured, but the experience was enough to warrant an investigation as to how to prevent this from happening again.

Gene Mullin, district superintendent at Sulphur, discussed the matter with Ed Barnes, a first class lineman in the district. Barnes thought it over and designed a guard rail that could be raised and lowered, simply by removing a cotter pin from the base of the support bracket.

With the railing in place in its raised position, an extra measure of safety is attained when entering and leaving the bucket. When not in use the rail is lowered to a position parallel with the cab of the truck.

"With this kind of input from our employees," said Mullin, "our safety program should be second to none. It's amazingly simple, yet very effective."

The devise is approximately three feet high in the raised position, and seven feet in length.



LIFE SAVER—John T. Graves, superintendent at Willow Glen Station, left, and Jack Worthy, vice president-Baton Rouge Division, right, were on hand to honor Marty Martin, mechanic's helper at the plant. Martin's quick and successful effort, in applying heart massage to Mike Vincent following his fall, is credited with keeping Vincent alive until medical help arrived on the scene. It was the first of two life saving efforts within two days involving Company employees.



A CLOSE CALL—Wally Thomason, shop foreman in Beaumont T&D, center, is alive today thanks to the efforts of Bobby Parham and Nathaniel Stevens. While on his lunch break Thomason began to choke on a particle of food. His efforts to induce vomiting failed and he was beginning to black out when Parham and Stevens managed to clear his throat. "I couldn't talk to tell them what was wrong, but they knew and gave me several sharp blows on the back to make me cough it up," Thomason said.

Safety Pays

Employees Owe Lives To Friends

Mike Vincent, master repairman at Willow Glen Station and Wally Thomason, shop foreman in Beaumont, are alive today thanks to the efforts of co-workers who knew what to do in an emergency.

Marty Martin (Willow Glen) and Nathaniel "Steve" Stevens and Bobby Parham (Beaumont), received Presidential Life Saving Awards from the Company. Martin used heart massage to keep alive a co-worker who had fallen some 60 feet to the pavement, and Stevens and Parham for dislodging a particle of food which was causing a co-worker to strangle.

Thomason was on his lunch break at the Beaumont Service Center. A piece of food became lodged in his throat causing him to strangle. He was unable to cry for help and began to lose consciousness when Stevens and Parham noticed his plight. Working together they were able to get Thomason's throat cleared within a few seconds.

Vincent's case was more severe in nature. Vincent and his partner on the job, Ricky Rivett, were working on the #4 boiler at Willow Glen, approximately 55-60 feet above the ground, when the accident took place. A piece of ironwork upon which Vincent had braced himself gave way. He fell to the pavement hitting different parts of the boiler structure on the way down.

Martin was working near ground level and saw Vincent falling. He ran to the man, felt for a pulse and found none. While another employee, Roy Tircuit, ran to notify a doctor, Martin began heart massage in an effort to get Vincent breathing. It worked. Vincent began to move a little, and shortly was on the way to the hospital.

Thomason is back at work in the garage, Vincent will be taking it easy for some time until his wounds heal. But the wounds will heal now that he has been given a chance, a chance he might not have had without that heart massage.

RETIREMENTS



Edward Vogel



Adam Speeg



Jeffie Simms



V. V. McGee



W. M. Harris

Adam D. Speeg, station supervisor at Louisiana Station in Baton Rouge, retired July 1, after nearly 39 years of service.

Speeg, a native of Baton Rouge, spent his career at Louisiana Station. He was employed there in 1938 as fuel operator. He was promoted to assistant fireman in 1940, to auxiliary operator in 1942, to turbine operator in 1943, switchboard operator in 1946, head fireman in 1947,

boiler operations foreman in 1953 and to station supervisor in 1967.

Jeffie Simms, appliance repairman in T&D in Beaumont, retires Aug. 1, after 30 years of employment with the Company.

The Melvin, La., native began his career as a laborer in 1947. After progressing through various classifications he was promoted to appliance repairman helper in

1973, and progressed to second class in 1977.

Simms has four children, Marvin, Sadie, Jeffie and Rosie.

Three employees are scheduled for retirement in September. Edward J. Vogel, Verlon V. McGee and W. M. Harris retire with a combined service record of 114 years.

Edward Vogel, employed in 1936, is a native of Sacramento, Calif. He was promoted to designer in System Engineering in 1970.

Vogel is a registered public surveyor in Texas and Louisiana, a member of the Deep East Texas Chapter of Texas Surveyors Association and the Knights of Columbus. He is married to the former Clara Louise Forster, and the couple has four children, Edward John, Arthur Paul, Katherine Ann and Joe Kriss.

Verlon V. McGee is a 38 year veteran of the Company. He was employed in 1939 as a groundman in Port Arthur. He was promoted to apprentice in 1941, and to patrolman in 1945. In 1949 he was promoted to appliance repairman and progressed from there.

He is a native of Pineland, Tex., but was educated in Nederland.

William M. Harris joined the Company in 1942 as diesel plant operator. He became operator of B Plant in Orange in 1945, and repairman second class in 1947. He was transferred to Neches Station in Beaumont in 1949 and promoted to repairman first class, and later was promoted to master repairman.

He is married to the former Georgia Brooks, and the couple has two children, Agnes and William.

THRIFT PLAN

Purchases of Gulf States Utilities Company stock made by the Trustee during May, 1977 covering employee deductions and Company contributions through April, 1977 were as follows:

Type of Stock	Number of Shares	Total Cost	Average Cost Per Share
Common	8,544	\$113,463.61	\$13.2799
\$4.40 Preferred	33	1,798.50	54.50

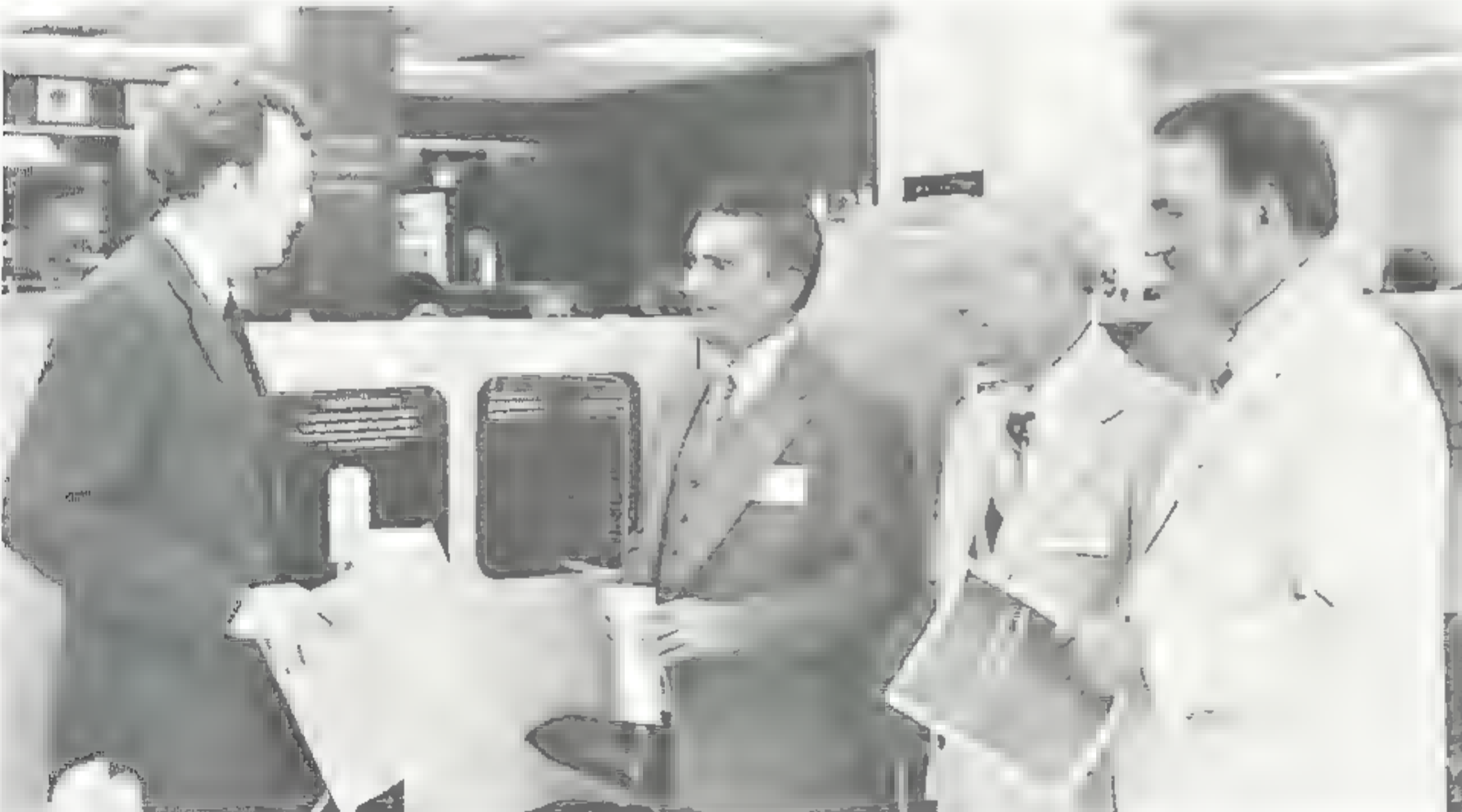
The Trustee deposited \$85,965.73 with the Savings Department of the First Security National Bank.

Number Shares	Per Share Price	Total Cost
3,266	13 1/4	\$ 43,274.50
1,500	13 1/4	20,055.00
3,100	13 1/8	41,059.50
600	13 1/4	8,022.00
78	13 3/8	1,052.61
8,544		\$113,463.61
33	54 1/2	\$ 1,798.50

Twenty Two Teams Fish At Toledo Bend



BIG BASS—Gary Kramer, Accounting Services in Beaumont, lifts the big bass of the tournament off the scales at weigh-in at the annual Live Wires Club Bass Tournament. Kramer's fish weighed four pounds, 12 ounces. The tournament was held at Six Mile Marina on Toledo Bend Reservoir. Some 22 teams participated.



ENERGY CENTER OPENS—Tom Page, executive vice president of the Company, left, talks with three members of the Texas Advisory Board who will work with the Company in promoting the centers. They are, left to right, Raymond Reed, co-chairman of the board and Dean of the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University; Roy Hayes, Roy Hayes Construction Company, Port Arthur; Howard G. Nichols, senior partner, The Nichols Company, Beaumont. GSU's Energy Information Centers are located in the five division offices of the Company, and are designed to demonstrate concepts for obtaining optimum energy efficiency using various types of materials and equipment. Two advisory boards, one for Texas and one for Louisiana, help guide the development and promotion of the centers. Ralph Spafford, System Marketing Coordinator for GSU, chairs both boards. Grand openings for each of the centers were held in June.

Hot weather and hard fishing was the name of the game at the 3rd Annual Live Wires Club Bass Tournament held at Six Mile Marina on Toledo Bend Reservoir. Twenty two teams competed in the event which was won by a Port Arthur pair, Joe Mallet and Johnny Love.

Mallet and Love managed to find the bass that eluded the majority of the other teams, and weighed in a string of five that ran the scales to 17 pounds, one ounce. Their nearest competitors were Wes Smith and James Barnes of Beaumont with nine pounds, 10 ounces.

Gary Kramer, a champion two years ago, brought home the big bass of the day at four pounds, 12 ounces. He caught the fish in the mid-afternoon on a fuzzy wuzzy over a creek bed.

Capturing third place in team event were Kramer and J. M. Foreman with a total string of six pounds, 13 and a half ounces; fourth place was won by Mickey Wilson and Jerry Cessna with five pounds, seven ounces, and fifth place was Lenard Meche and Mike Guilbeau out of Lafayette with five pounds, five ounces.

Chip Knowles was the judge and co-chairman of the tournament with Wes Smith as co-chairman. Smith will head up next years tourney which may be at Lake Rayburn. The 22 teams were the most entries to date in the three year event.

CHANCELLOR—Frank Washington, helper in the Substation Department in Lake Charles, returned recently from the Knights of Pythias/Court of Calanthe 97th convention held in New Orleans. Washington is Chancellor Commander of the Knights of Lake Charles Lodge No. 120, and has been in the organization for 22 years. He is also vice president of True Friend Benevolent Society and a Free and Accepted Mason, and a member of the American Woodman.

In Memoriam



Melgar Dennis



Sidney Hebert



Cooper Spengler

Melgar E. Dennis, retired Jennings supervisor, died May 19.

Dennis had retired in 1956 after 43 years of service with the Company, and associated companies. He began with Gulf States in 1926, but his utility service dated back to 1913 with employment at Keokuk (Iowa) Electric and Mississippi River Power.

Dennis was transferred to Jennings in 1927 as line foreman and remained in that city until his retirement.

Sidney J. Hebert, retired sales representative in Port Arthur, died June 20, in Port Arthur. Hebert had been retired since March, 1972.

A 43 year veteran of the Company, Hebert joined GSU in 1929 as a bill deliverer. He was married to the former Clofa Berard of St. Martinville, and the couple had three children, Mrs. Carl Van Hess of Groves, Bert and Gary.

J. Cooper Spengler, retired superintendent of the Baton Rouge Gas Department, died May 31, in Baton Rouge.

Spengler had retired in July, 1974 after 29 years of service. He was a native of Hinds County, Miss. He joined the Company in 1935 as a chemical engineer in the Gas Department. He was promoted to foreman, and in 1943 became gas distribution engineer. In 1948 he advanced to gas distribution supervisor.

He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Marie Ashby and Natalia Spengler, both of Baton Rouge; and three brothers, A. D. Spengler, S. F. Spengler and Murray Spengler.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

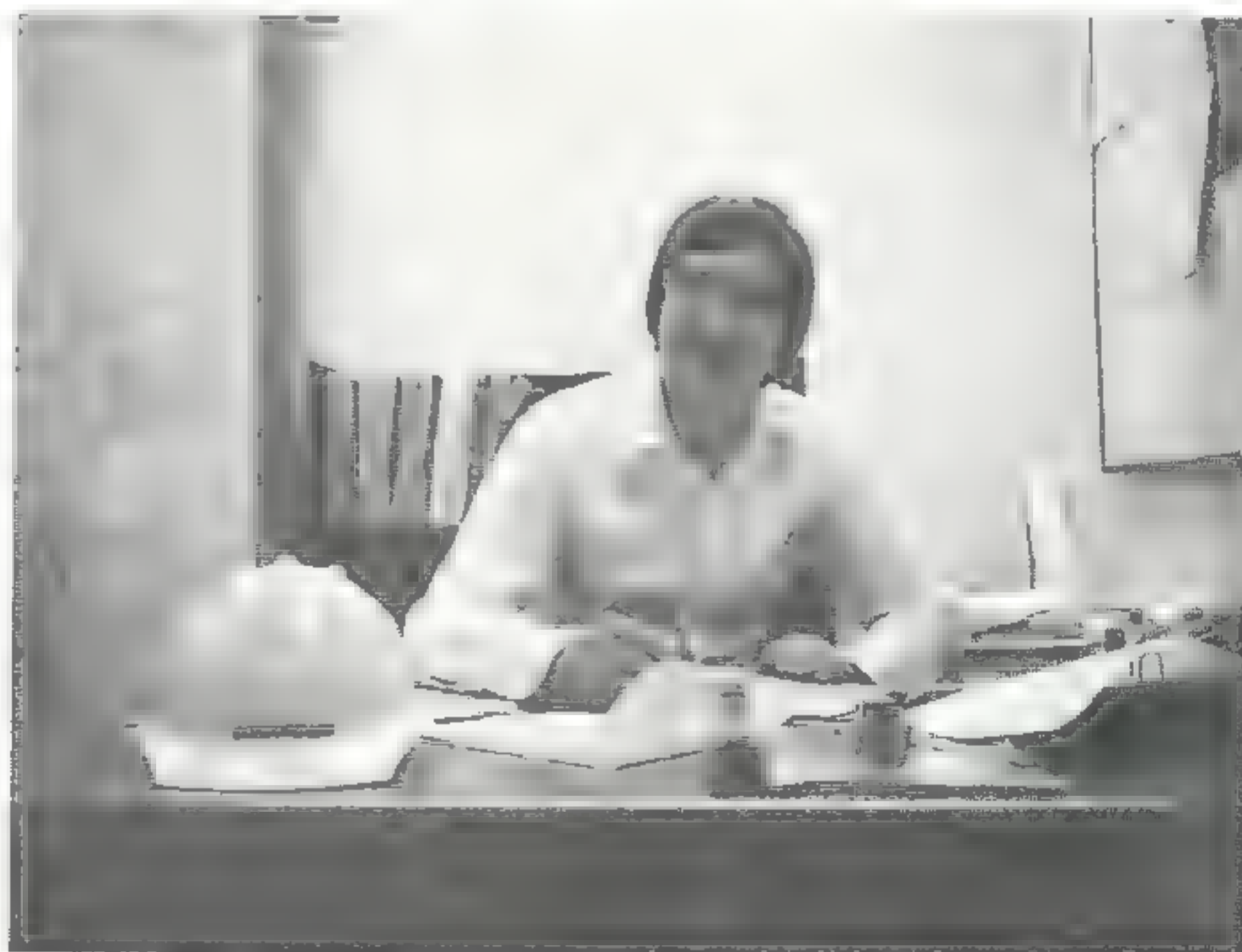
(See Pages 14-19)



Smith



Grimes



Kistrup

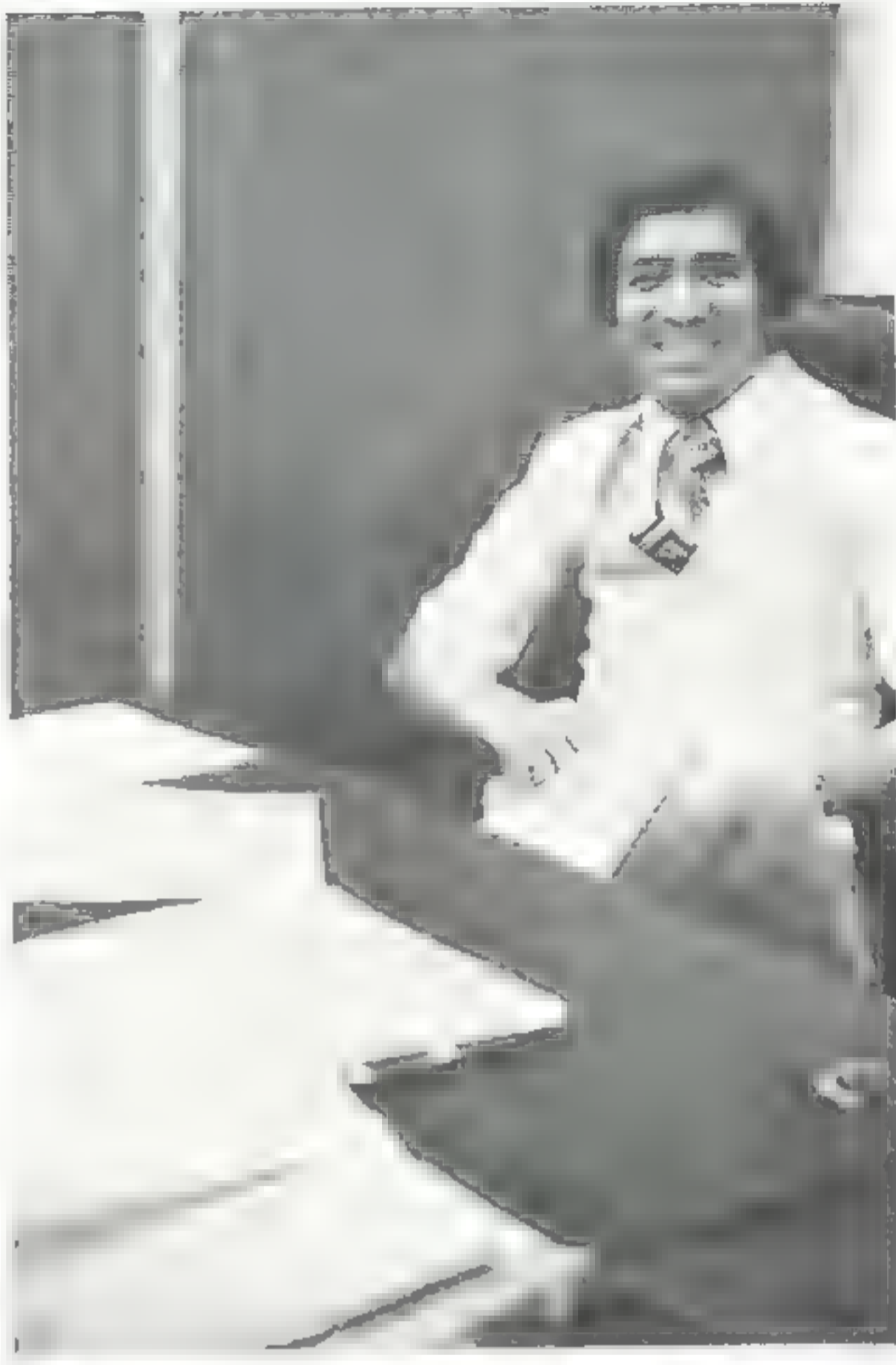
PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Reynolds



Johnson



Berger



Hutchins



Pace



Bryan

Linda S. "JoAnn" Smith, supervisor-Consumer Services in Beaumont, has been promoted to Supervisor-Consumer Information Services.

Mrs. Smith, a native of Fields, La., was employed in 1965 following her graduation from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La., with a degree in home economics education. She is married to Joe Lee Smith, Sports Information Director at Lamar University.

Mrs. Smith is active in numerous job-related activities including the American Home Economics Association, Sabine Area Home Economists Unit, Lamar University Women's Club. She is past president of the South Texas Home Economists in Business, and has been honored as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America. She is also a graduate of the Public Utility Executive Program, University of Michigan.

O. R. "Ray" Pace, former Mid-County superintendent, has been transferred to Vidor and named Superintendent of the Vidor office.

Employed in 1947 following a four-year tour in the Navy, Pace started out in the Meter Department. He entered sales work in 1953 and has served as Beaumont District residential sales supervisor until his promotion to sales supervisor in Orange in 1971.

Pace is married to the former Grace LaDell Russell of Nash, Tex., and the couple has one daughter, Mrs. Eugene Davis of Vidor.

Pace is a past president of the Vidor Chamber of Commerce, the Vidor Optimist Club and the Orange County Public Housing Authority. He currently is serving as a member of the board of directors of the Port Neches Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Port Neches.

Dewitt C. Hollingsworth, industrial representative in Lake Charles, has been transferred to Beaumont and promoted to Supervisor-Consumer Services.

Hollingsworth, a native of Hollingsworth, La., is a 1962 graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana

with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He was employed in 1968 as a residential sales representative in Sulphur, and in 1969 was transferred to Lake Charles. He was promoted to senior residential sales representative, and in 1970 was promoted to senior commercial sales representative. He was promoted to industrial representative in 1972.

The Army veteran is married to the former Trudy Johnson of Ragley, La., and the couple has one daughter, Elizabeth Marie.

Terry L. Johnson, environmental analyst at Sabine Station, has been transferred to Neches Station and named chemist.

Johnson, a native of Beaumont, is a 1976 graduate of Lamar University with a degree in environmental science. He joined the Company in January of this year.

Two promotions have been announced in the Technical Services Department.

Brandon C. Bryan, former supervisor in Budget Services has been transferred to Technical Services and promoted to Coordinator-Corporate Planning.

J. L. Grimes, former coordinator in Power Systems has been transferred to Technical Services and promoted to Staff Analyst.

Bryan, an employee since 1968, was promoted to administrative assistant in Financial Services in 1969, and in 1972 was promoted to financial administration coordinator.

He is a 1965 graduate of Lamar University with a business administration degree, and received his master's degree in 1969 from Lamar.

Grimes was employed in 1953 as an engineering helper in System Engineering. He became an engineering assistant in 1955, and senior engineering assistant in 1959. In 1966 he was transferred to Information & Data Services and promoted to systems analyst, and in 1967 was promoted to project leader. A year later he was promoted to EDP scheduling and controls coordinator. Grimes transferred to System Production in 1972 and was promoted to power systems coordinator.

The Beaumont native of a nine year veteran of the Army Reserve, and is married to the former Jane Alice Fish of Franklin, Pa. The couple has four boys, Milhel, Kelly, Patrick and Casey.

Bruce K. Kistrup, engineer in Baton Rouge T&D, has been transferred to Willow Glen Station as engineer.

Kistrup was employed in 1974 following his graduation from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. The Houston native is married to the former Claudia Curry of Denham Springs, and the couple has one son, Mattson.

William B. Reynolds, administrative assistant in Material Services, has been transferred to Power Plant Construction at Sabine Station and named Purchasing Agent-Construction.

Reynolds was employed in 1956 as an accounting clerk in Beaumont. He progressed through various classifications and was promoted to customer accounting coordinator in 1965. In 1967 he was transferred to Baton Rouge and promoted to supervisor of customer accounting, and in 1973 was transferred to Conroe in the same capacity. He was named administrative assistant in 1976 and transferred to Beaumont in Material Services.

He is married to the former Helen Varner of Tooele, Utah, and the couple has three children, Russell, Debbie and Laurie. Reynolds is a four year veteran of the Air Force.

H. O. Jenkins, shift supervisor at Louisiana Station, has been promoted to station supervisor.

Jenkins, a native of McDonald, W. Va., has been an employee since 1946 following five years of duty with the Army during World War II. He was employed as an operator's helper and in 1948 became auxiliary operator. He was promoted to turbine operator in 1949, and second fireman in 1950. From 1953 to 1973 he was promoted through various classifications to shift supervisor.

He is married to the former Mary Imogene Broussard of Baton Rouge, and the couple has one son, Edward, and two grandchildren.

He is a member of the DAV, American Legion and VFW.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Delahoussaye



Gerac



McCullar



Sterling



Willis



Ramsey

Joseph J. Delahoussaye, senior budget analyst in Beaumont, has been promoted to Supervisor-Budget Services.

Delahoussaye, a native of New Iberia, La., has been an employee since 1969 when hired as an administrative accountant in Beaumont. After two years of Army service he returned to work and a year later was transferred to the Budget Department. He was promoted to senior budget analyst and transferred to Financial Services in 1976.

A 1969 graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Delahoussaye was honored by the National Association of Accountants for an award winning accounting thesis he authored in 1974. He is currently completing requirements for a master's degree at Lamar University.

He is married to the former Merline Meaux of Abbeville, La., and the couple has two children, Jennifer Lynn and Regina Kay.

Lester C. McCullar, superintendent Vidor, has been transferred to the Transmission and Distribution Department in Beaumont and named Inspector-Contract Crews.

McCullar, a native of Beaumont, had been Vidor superintendent since 1970. He previously had served as district serviceman. He is a veteran of the Air Force and served in the South Pacific during World War II.

He is married to the former Archie Ray Harrington of Beaumont and the couple has two children, Mrs. Carolyn Ray Adams of McAlester, Okla., and Michael Lewis.

Lyle P. Gerac, executive assistant in Accounting Services, has been transferred to Contract Services and promoted to Director-Contract Services.

Gerac, an employee since 1964, is a 1963 graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He began his career as a junior accountant in Beaumont. He transferred

to Financial Accounting in 1965 and worked his way up to administrative accountant in the Budget Department in 1967. From 1968 to 1972 he worked as supervisor in accounts payable and plant accounting. In October of 1972 he was promoted to Division Accounting Supervisor in Port Arthur, and came back to Beaumont in 1974 as executive assistant. In 1976 he was transferred to Accounting Services-Controller's Staff.

The former Air Force officer is married to the former Marie Louise Braud of Gonzales, La., and the couple has three children, Phillip, Patrick and Stephanie.

T. R. Stirling, former senior engineering assistant, has been promoted to Supervisor-Estimating and Budgeting in Engineering Services.

Stirling has been an employee since 1964 when hired as engineering helper in Survey. He became an engineering assistant in 1966, and in 1967 was named draftsman. In 1970 he became an engineering assistant in Estimating, and was promoted to senior engineering assistant in 1971 in Engineering Services.

He is a 1977 graduate of Lamar University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. The Navy veteran is married to the former Carolyn Mooney of Houston, and the couple has two sons, Mark and Scott.

Seven years of night school at Lamar leading to his degree this year has kept him busy, but not too busy to coach Little League baseball and Pony League ball.

Russell G. Ramsey, equipment operator at Neches Station, has been transferred to the Records Department and promoted to nuclear records representative.

A native of Demopolis, Ala., Ramsey was employed in 1970 as an operator's helper at Neches Station. He progressed to turbine operator, second fireman and equipment operator. His latest promotion came following his graduation from

Lamar University with a bachelor's degree in business administration-management.

He is married to the former Marvis Hemmenway of Vidor, and the couple has one daughter, Ann. Ramsey is a member of Delta Sigma Pi, an honorary professional business fraternity.

Four changes have been announced in the Accounting Services Department in Beaumont.

B. J. Willis, former supervisor in Plant Accounting, has been promoted to Director-Financial Accounting; **J. H. Curless**, senior field accountant, has been promoted to Supervisor-Plant Accounting; **H. E. Stein**, senior budget analyst in Financial Services, has been transferred to Accounting Services and named senior administrative accountant; and **E. W. Berger**, senior administrative accountant, has assumed responsibility for special accounting studies and projects.

Bobby Willis, a native of New Orleans, was employed in 1964 in Plant Accounting as a junior accountant. He was promoted to internal auditor in 1966, and in 1967 was promoted to assistant purchasing agent. In 1972 he was again promoted, this time to supervisor of plant accounting.

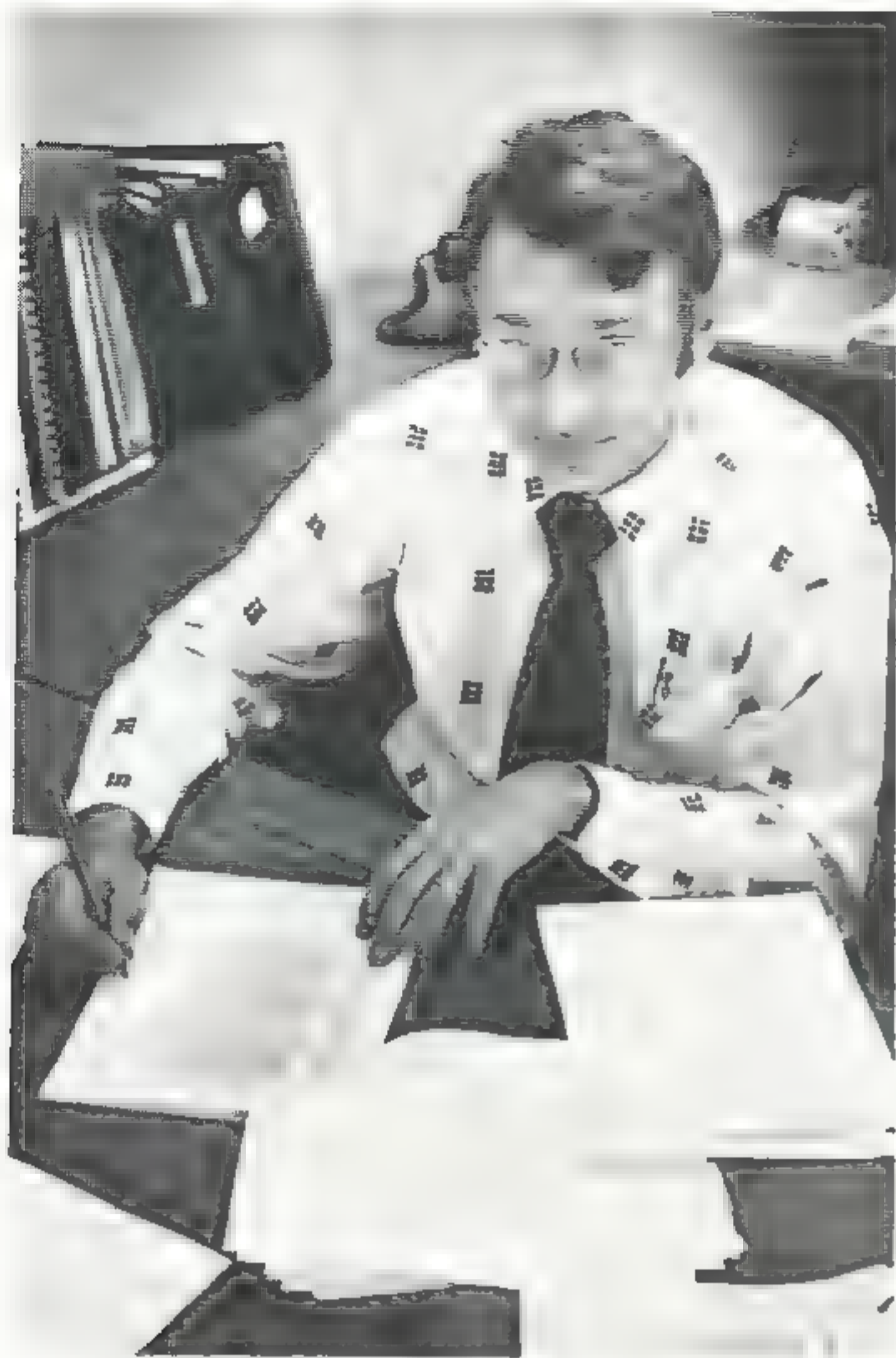
Willis is a three year veteran of the Army, and is a 1962 graduate of Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

He is married to the former Geraldine Altazin of Baton Rouge, and the couple has two children, Tammy Jo and Toni Jo.

Jon Curless has been an employee since 1969. He began his career as administrative accountant in System Treasury, and transferred to Financial Services in 1971. He was promoted to senior administrative accountant in 1975 and senior field accountant in 1976.

Curless is a five year veteran of the Air Force, and a 1969 graduate of Sam Houston State University with a bachelor's degree in economics. The Baker, Mont., native is married to the

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Curless



Babin



Stein



O'Neill



Meitzen

former Nancy Richardson of Alvin, Tex., and the couple has one daughter, Amanda.

Herb Stein, a native of Pierre, South Dakota, has been employed since 1969. He joined the Company as an administrative accountant in Accounting Services, and later transferred to Budget. In 1976 he was promoted to senior budget analyst in Financial Services.

Stein is a 1969 graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a bachelor's degree in business administration. While at USL, Stein co-captained the track team and specialized in the 440 and mile relay events as well as the long jump. He is married to the former Rebecca Ann Baker of Fenton, La., and the couple has one son, William.

Erwin Berger is a native of Shiner, Tex. He has been an employee since 1970, and is a veteran of the Army. He is a 1970 graduate of the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in general business.

Berger is married to the former Lynette Darilek, Moulton, Tex., and the couple has one child, Shawn Denyse. He is an active member of the United Appeals, the YMBL of Beaumont and the YMCA.

Joe M. O'Neill, truckdriver in Cleveland, has been transferred to Conroe and promoted to Labor Foreman.

O'Neill was employed in 1950 as a meter reader in Cleveland. He was transferred to T&D in 1956 as a helper, and in 1957 was promoted to truckdriver.

He is a native of Lufkin, Tex., and a three year veteran of the Army.

He is married to the former Pearl Bailey of Livingston, Tex., and the couple has two children, Joyce and Sidney.

Edward Hutchins, former system operator in Beaumont, has been transferred to Mid-County and promoted to Superintendent.

Hutchins, a native of Livingston, Tex., has been an employee of GSU since 1957. He began as an appliance repairman helper at Beaumont, and also has

worked as an engineering helper in Transmission and Distribution, and division substation operator.

He is a veteran of the Texas National Guard, and is married to the former Cathy D. Watson of San Diego, Calif. Hutchins has two sons, Bruce and Greg.

Harriet S. Babin, home services supervisor in Baton Rouge, has been promoted to Supervisor-Consumer Information Services.

The Dutchtown, La., native has been employed since 1960 when she joined the Company as junior home service advisor in Orange. She was named home service advisor in 1962 and in 1963 was transferred to Baton Rouge. Miss Babin was promoted to senior home service advisor in 1963, and in 1972 was promoted to supervisor.

She is a 1960 graduate of Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in home economics, and successfully earned her master's degree in 1971 from LSU. She is active in professional organizations and is the current State President of Louisiana Home Economics Association, and as such is the officer delegate to the National American Home Economics Association convention in Boston; past state chairman of the Louisiana Home Economists in Business; Board of Directors-Baton Rouge Symphony; Member of Education Committee of Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce and a member of various honorary societies at LSU including Omicron Nu, Phi Upsilon Omicron and Gamma Sigma Delta.

Bernard L. Campo, building and grounds maintenance supervisor-Baton Rouge, has been promoted to Supervisor-Office Services in Division Accounting.

Campo was employed in 1942 as a messenger, but took a leave of absence shortly thereafter and joined the Coast Guard where he served until 1946. He returned to work as customers contact representative, became a meter reader in 1949 and senior meter reader in 1952. He was promoted to supervisor-meter reader in 1960, and in 1967 was promoted to building and grounds maintenance supervisor.

He is a native of Paincourtville, La. He and his wife, Eva, have three children, Bernard, III, Robert and David.

James A. Meitzen, senior project engineer in Beaumont, has been transferred to System Production Department and promoted to Director of Results.

Meitzen began his career as an engineer at Nelson Station. In 1961 he was transferred to Riverside Station in Lake Charles and named test supervisor. He was transferred to Willow Glen Station in 1966 and promoted to planning and test supervisor, and then was promoted to superintendent at Lewis Creek Station in the Western Division near Conroe in 1969. Two years later he was brought back to Beaumont and promoted to nuclear systems engineer in 1971. A year later he was promoted to project engineer, and senior project engineer in 1974.

The Marlin, Tex., native is a 1958 graduate of Texas A&M University, and is a two year veteran of the Army. He is married to the former Ann Jacob of Acta Loma, Tex., and the couple has three children which he describes this way: Karen (a chip off the old block), Lisa (a real Tiger) and Jimmie (his mother's pride and joy).

Meitzen is a member of the American Nuclear Society.

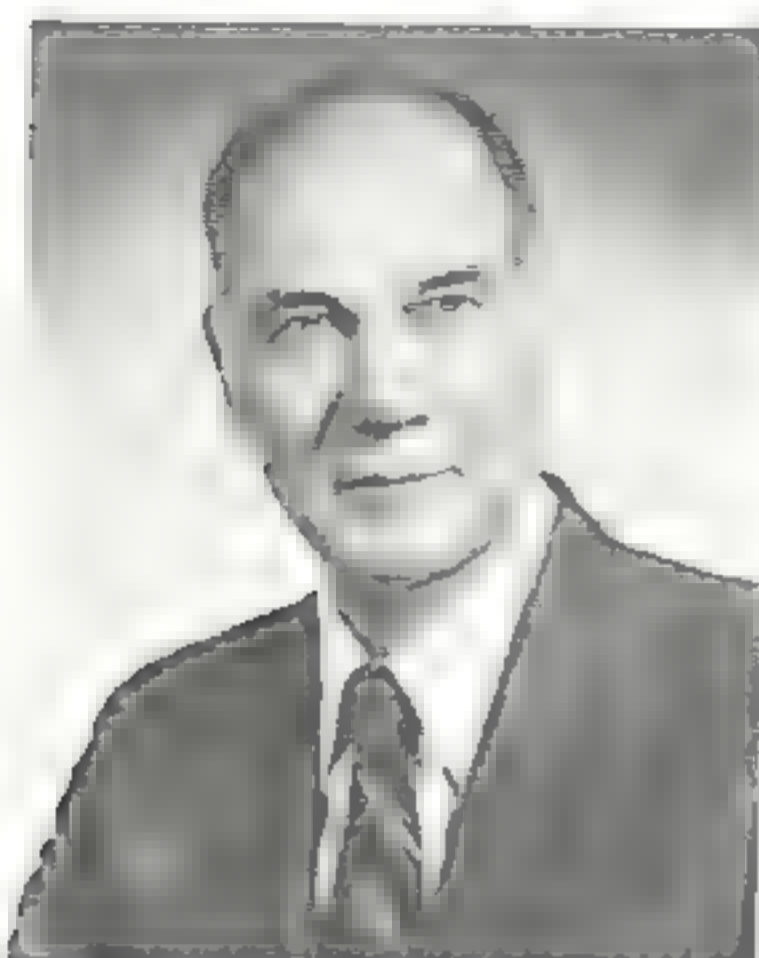
Joel E. Jeffcote, former internal auditor in Beaumont, has been transferred to Conroe and promoted to Supervisor-Customer Accounts.

A native of Houston, Jeffcote was employed in 1970 as a mechanic's helper at Sabine Station. He became a test technician in 1972, and in 1974 was promoted to administrative accountant in Beaumont following his graduation from Lamar University with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

He is a four year veteran of the Air Force with service in Vietnam, and is married to the former Margaret Nichols of Bridge City. The couple has two children, Scott and Sara.

SERVICE AWARDS

40 Years



T. O. McKnight
Division Operations
Baton Rouge

20 Years



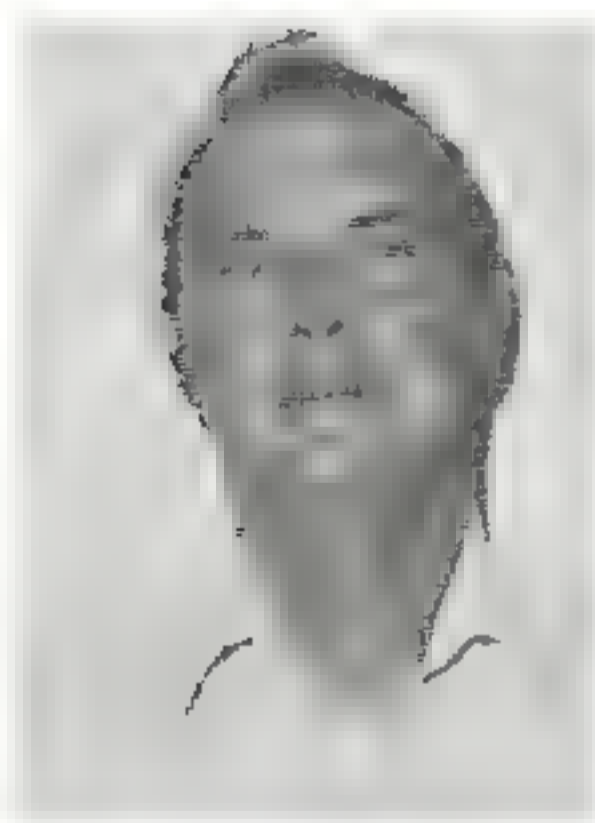
W. E. Barksdale
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Jamie L. Davis
Division Accounting
Beaumont



Florine P. Fukes
Personnel
Beaumont



John H. Gottschalck
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Mitchell Hollier
Division Production
Baton Rouge



Edward Hutchins
System Production
Beaumont



Phyllis D. Lancon
Information and Data
Services
Beaumont



James E. Mahlmann
Information and Data
Services
Beaumont



Joseph O. Robichau
Material Services
Beaumont

30 Years



Vernon A. Huey
Division Accounting
Baton Rouge



Thomas C. Macon
Division Production
Baton Rouge



Jeffie Simms
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Leroy Tunious
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Frank Washington
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Clyde V. Wilson
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Thomas D. Ardoin
System Engineering
Design
Beaumont



Sherman Boutte
Electric T&D
Port Arthur



Raphael Bourque
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Wilson Broussard
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Joe W. Covington
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Walter Different
System Engineering
Transmission Planning
Beaumont



Horence E. Foreman
Division Production
Port Arthur



John W. New on
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Dru C. Plunkett
Legal Services
Beaumont



Thomas P. Young
Division Marketing
Baton Rouge

SERVICE AWARDS

30 Years



R. C. Cowen
Division Accounting
Conroe



Robert J. Furlow
Division Production
Baton Rouge



James A. Graves
Division Production
Baton Rouge



W. K. Haynie Jr.
System Marketing
Beaumont



H. S. Hereford Jr.
Electric T&D
Conroe



Alfred P. LeBlanc
Division Accounting
Baton Rouge



Lucina B. Ory
Division Accounting
Lake Charles



John Sheets Jr.
Electric T&D
Gonzales



Jack P. Trouard
Electric T&D
Sulphur

20 Years



Joseph E. Bondurant
Executive
Beaumont



James D. Maines
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Joseph E. Miller
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



James E. Morgan
Electric T&D
Anahuac



Douglas G. Olson
Accounting Services
Beaumont

10 Years



Jerald D. Adams
System Engineering
Standards & Applications
Beaumont



Ronald J. Bordelon
Gas
Baton Rouge



Glynn A. Gaudet
System Production
Beaumont



Walter L. Gilbert
Electric T&D
Port Allen



Juanita C. Girdler
Information and Data
Services
Beaumont



Frank O. Groves Jr.
Material Services
Beaumont



William Houston
Division Production
Port Arthur



Warren D. Jordan
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Victor J. LaRocca Jr.
Electric T&D
Port Arthur



Pete J. Licce
Electric T&D
Conroe



Marion F. Podraza
Electric T&D
Conroe



Bruce M. Rabalais
Gas
Baton Rouge



Steven O. Schwalbe
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Carolyn V. Thaggard
Personnel
Beaumont



James T. Veatch
Division Production
Baton Rouge

Baton Rouge Division

10 Years Award



Left to right: Walter M. Rhorer, Charles H. Greer, Morris Humphrey, and Mr. Smith. Second row: Everett D. Hansen, George E. Kelly, Ronald J. Paille.

20 Years Award



Left to right: John E. Gautreaux, Calvin A. Comeaux, Elizabeth Ann Dance, Kenneth P. Comeaux, Carter A. Carpenter, Charles F. Dorhauer and Mr. Smith. Second row: John W. Gross, Raymond J. Delaune, Bernard C. Bourgeois, Edward J. Bourgeois, Charles E. Coleman, Peeler O. Davidson, Theodore B. Chaney.

Baton Rouge Division

20 Years Award



Left to right: Jimmie R. Neal, Marvin D. O'Neal, Martin C. Hebert, Donald R. Hood, Byrd J. Hutchinson, Bobby H. Schenk, Buddy E. Mullen. Second row: John L. Sullivan, James R. Stewart, James Price, Ralph M. Knobloch, William R. Major, Albert Turner, Carl J. Paline and Mr. Smith.

30 Years Award



Left to right: Alfred J. Dearmond, Darrell G. Clement, Floyd J. Gonzales, Elvie A. Cowart, Mr. Smith. Second row: Fabien J. Daigle, John Bell, Sr., James W. Bello, Gerald C. Bond, Richard A. Hughes.

Baton Rouge Division

30 Years Award



Left to right: Sidney Jack, George H. Naquin, William P. Tucker, Opal T. Temple, Mr. Smith. Second row: Julien C. Melancon, Landry Sprull, Maurice J. Robert, Richard P. Smith, Gordon D. Minor.

40 Years Award



Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert L. Parker and Mr. Smith.

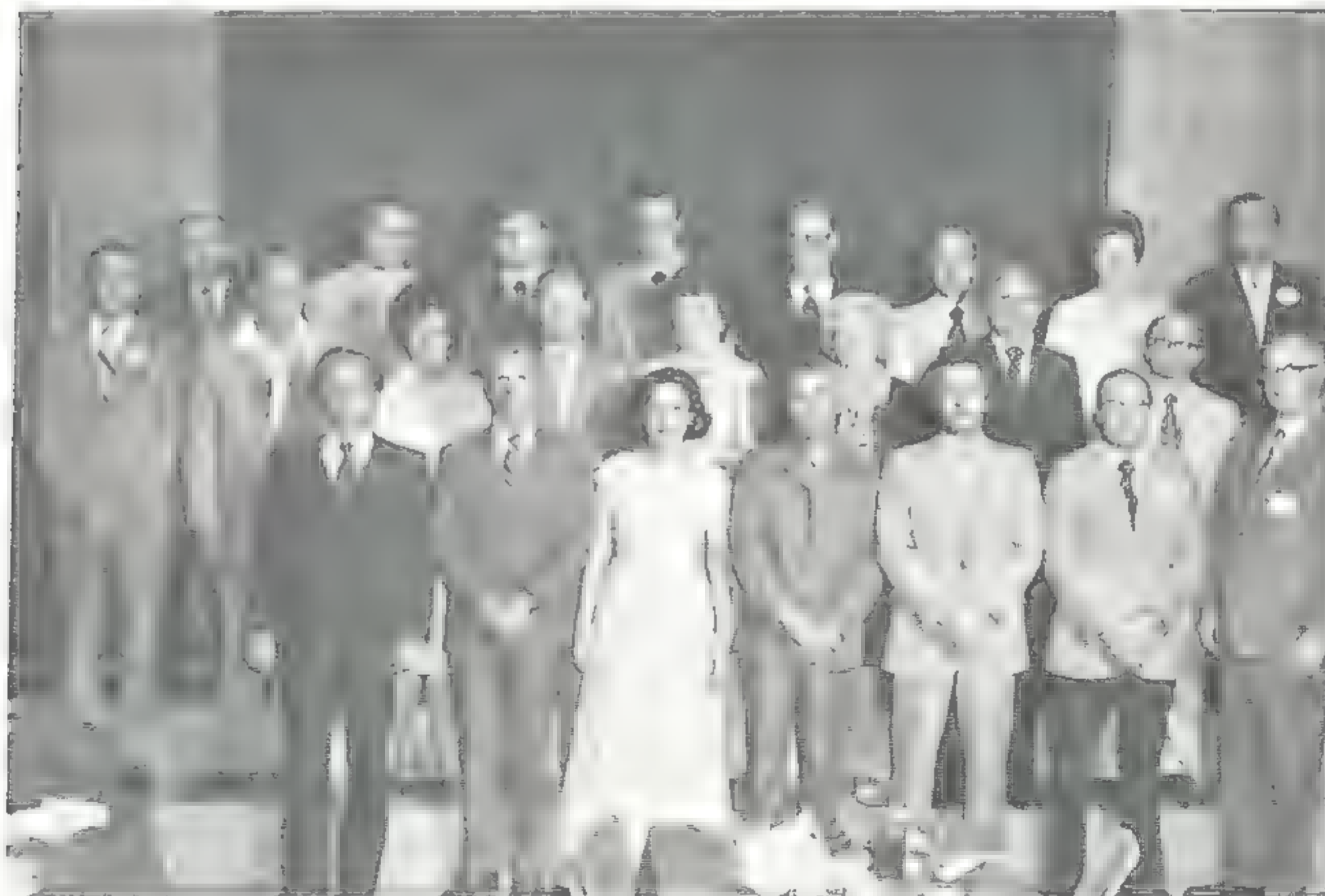
Beaumont Division

10 Years Award



First row, left to right: Linda Marks, Nancy Rayburn, Betty Baker, Pat Acker, Linda B. Smith, Sue Kendall, Ted Borowski, Mr. Smith, Second row, Martin Telger, Mickey Wilson, Charles Bordeman, John Cowart and Doug Skinner. Third row, Van Graham, Floyd Fortenberry, Wayne Monger, Charles Griffin, Isiah Harmon, Morris Jenkins and J. M. England.

20 Years Award



First row, left to right: Carl Jones, Myrl Hollyfield, Gwen Thompson, Eugene Salonek, Henry Marino, Travis Birdwell and Mr. Smith. Second row, Kent Kirk, Richard Willis, Ruth Jaster, Jimmy Booker, Glenda Milner, Carolyn Theobald, Mel Cole and R. J. Stout. Third row, Charles Powell, Nathan Bibb, Bobby Thompson, Kit Evans, Lannie Tynes and Hank Rouse. Third row, Mary Jordan and Dempsey Wiggins.

Beaumont Division

30 Years Award



First row, left to right: Charles Baer, Ralph Massey, Gerald Dailey, Sydney Jones, R. W. McReynolds, Raymond Welch and Mr. Smith. Second row, Orie Richardson, Dan Stephenson, David Pate, Stan LeBouef and Garland Bossley.

40 Years Award



First row, left to right: Mr. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Pace, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Terrell, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hebert, C. J. Bonura. Second row, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Risher, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Baird, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Murphy.

Western Division

10 Years Award



First row, left to right: Bobby Clay, Roy Haarmeyer, Charles Burzynski, James L. Moore. Second row, William Norwood, Alvin Booker, Edwin Lewis, Earnest Dawson, Truman Brown and Mr. Smith.

20 Years Award



Left to right: Bobby Feagin, Wayne Allen and Mr. Smith.

Western Division

30 Years Award



Left to right: C. A. Estes, Ross Reed and Mr. Smith. Joe Bailey not pictured.

Port Arthur Division

10 Years Award



Left to right: Edward J. Retherford, Doris H. Jimmerson, Glenn R. Mason, Evelyn R. Lawrence and Mr. Smith.

Port Arthur Division

20 Years Award



Left to right: Dudley P. Malveaux, John C. Phares, Jr., Clinton B. Graham, Jr., and Mr. Smith.

30 Years Award



Left to right: Wallace S. Norwood, Odell James, Ray W. Pharo, J. J. Boutte, L. P. Hebert and Mr. Smith. Second row: Kenneth R. Hoffpauir, William J. LeBouef, Hal J. Ridley, Raymond Kemp.

Lake Charles Division

10 Years Award



Left to right: Freeman M. Jones, Barbara N. Wilkerson, Daniel J. Terro, Thomas D. Smoak, Loretta D. Savoy, Donald Murphy and Mr. Smith. Second row: Robert D. Ousse, Eby J. Henry, Richard Higginbotham, Allen J. Guillotte, Kenneth M. Ingels, Charles R. Paris.



Left to right: Charles W. Elter, Paul R. Bourque, James R. Broussard, Dorothy C. Bennett, Danny R. Dickerson. Second row: Charles S. Berry, Duane L. Abshire, Tommy L. Cassell and Mr. Smith.

Lake Charles Division

20 Years Award



Left to right: Terrell G. Franklin, Jeffery P. Derouen, Allen J. Hernandez, Travis R. Fox, Mr. Smith. Second row: Daniel D. Leger, Harry O'Quinn, Byron W. Cloyd, Donald L. Cooke, John J. Arabie, J. M. Manuel and Rodney Benoit.

30 Years Award



Left to right: Cullen J. Rome, Lee D. LaFleur, Corbett A. LeBlanc, O. J. LeBlanc, and Mr. Smith. Second row: James Wall, Carlos E. Torrains, Horace P. Trahan, Earl E. Mayfield, Lemorie Slocum and Wilmer Ledbetter.

Lake Charles Division

30 Years Award



Left to right: Charles M. Heichelheim, Allie C. Gloria, John H. Beaugh, Columbus Hanks, August M. Bergeron, Edgar DeWoody and Lloyd J. Clements. Second row: Feland H. Bush, Marvin L. Goodman, Murphy L. Guidry, Calvin N. Hall, James C. Daigle, Lester J. Gauthier, John W. Hurst and Mr. Smith.

40 Years Award



Left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Billodeaux, Miss Ann Mathis and F. E. Mathis and Mr. Smith.

Reporters

When you have any news or a story you think would be interesting to other Gulf Staters, contact the reporter nearest to you, or write or call the **PLAIN TALKS** editor, Pat McMeel, in Beaumont. Notify **PLAIN TALKS** reporters of any event that is happening in your area that the magazine should cover. A complete list of reporters and their locations is given below. If any persons named are no longer active reporters, please contact Pat McMeel. Persons wishing to become **PLAIN TALKS** reporters should also contact the editor. We can never have too many reporters.

BATON ROUGE: Margie Force (T&D), T. Boone Chaney (T&D), Melanie Hima (T&D), Jack Gautreaux (T&D), James W. Bello (T&D), Geraldyn Williams (Gas), Glenda Boyd (Acct.), Mary Smith, Robert Graves (Storeroom), Susan Wilks, Debbie Lynn (Engr.), Linda Nelson (Meter), Debbie Reeves (Sub.), Rhonda Cheek (Govt. St.)

BEAUMONT: Bill Toups (S.C.), Carolyn Motl (T&D), Ann Ogden, Edy Matthews, Dorothy Nowell, Carolyn Thaggard, Gina Collins, Gene Russell,

CALVERT: Betty Dowell,

CLEVELAND: Edd Mitchell,

CONROE: Frances Elliot, Marilyn Key, Pat Jones.

DENHAM SPRINGS: Lenelle Juban,

GONZALES: Billie Fortenberry,

HUNTSVILLE: Karen Morley,

JENNINGS: Earl Mayfield,

LAFAYETTE: Mona Burris,

LAKE CHARLES: Billie Belvin (Garage), Edith Patterson (T&D), Janet Followay.

LA. STATION: Marilyn Nicholson,

LEWIS CREEK: D. W. Rutherford,

MADISONVILLE: Jean Tinsley,

NAVASOTA: Betty Dickschat,

NECHES STATION: Terry Bond, Ed Foster,

NELSON STATION: Martha Caldwell,

NEW CANEY: Diana Winkelmann, Paul Mosley,

ORANGE: Doris Womack,

PORT ALLEN: Adele Vavasaur,

PORT ARTHUR: Sue Williams, Lorraine Dunham (S.C.)

SABINE STATION: Darlene Faires, Fred Kressman,

SOMERVILLE: Mary Brock,

SULPHUR: Pearl Burnett,

WILLOW GLEN: Dora Landaiche, James Veatch,

WOODVILLE: Alene Cole,

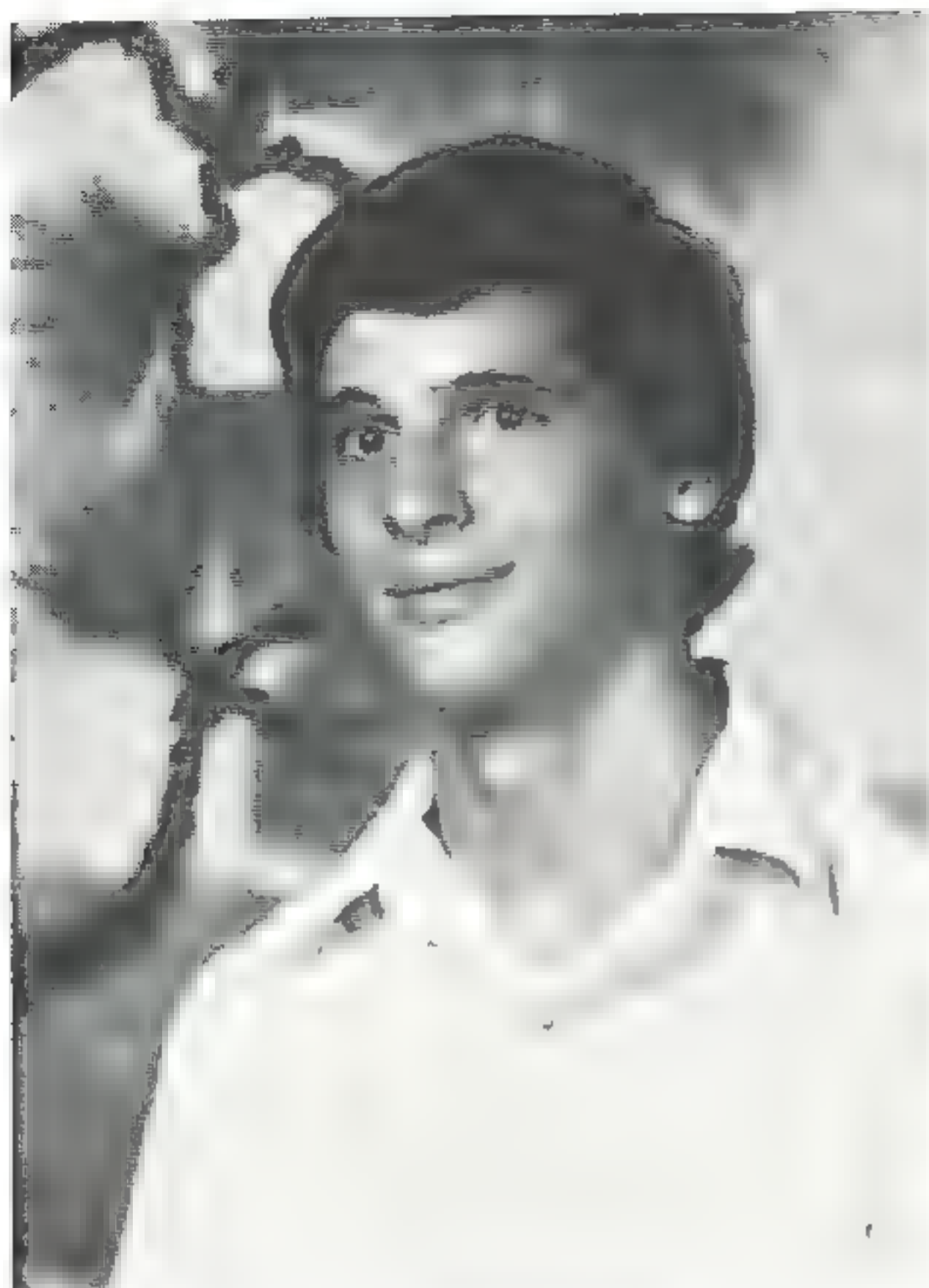
ZACHARY: Myra Ponthier,



COACHING PAYS OFF—Archie McClure, mechanical repairman at Louisiana Station, poses with his championship basketball club prior to their departure to New Jersey for the national finals. McClure's team compiled a record of 22-3 over the season, won four tournaments and finished second once and third once during the year. The team, composed of boys six to eleven years of age, defeated a New Orleans team in a regional tournament to win the right to go to nationals. In New Jersey the Central Area club won two and lost two to finish 24-5 on the year. Two of McClure's sons are on the team. First row, left to right, Damon Smith, Scottie McClure, Tod Bowen, West Watts, Darron McClure and J. C. Carroll. Back row, Mac Watts, Joel Traxell, Mike Lilly, John Allen, Mike Harrellson and Jeff Crowe. (from Marilyn Nicholson)



BYE BYE BADGER—Sam Badger was given a going away party by his friends in Port Arthur before reporting to Beaumont in his new role of communications representative. Since Badger is an AGGIE it was only natural that he was presented an Aggie coffee cup . . . that is a cup with the handle on the INSIDE. Sharing the festivities with Sam are, left to right, JoAnn Larson, Pam Dattalo, Brenda (Sam's better half) with son Brock, Kathleen Wright, Penny Bolyard and Jean Andrews. (from Sue Williams)



David Barnett



James Arisco



Gloria Jean Mathis



Cheryl Wilder



Robert Barnett



Mark Alan Roffman

Scholarship seems to be the "in thing" for many children and grandchildren of Gulf States employees this year. Some of the honors won by these students are as follows:

BEAUMONT: Scot Shaw, son of Virgil Shaw, won or shared in four scholastic awards at Beaumont Charlton-Pollard. He picked up awards from the Texas Chemical Council Award, Physics Award, National Honor Society Scholarship and Highest Scholastic Standing Award.

Stan Roby, son of F. S. Roby, captured the Atomic Energy Symposium Award.

Steve Faggard, son of "Bobo" Faggard, won the Finger Furniture Award.

Cheryl Wilder, daughter of Jim Wilder, was National Merit Scholarship finalist at French High.

MID-COUNTY: Mark Alan Roffman, son of Fred Roffman, won the Bell System Science Award at Port Neches-Groves High School.

Robert D. Barnett, grandson of

Charles M. Arisco who retired after 47 years of service, won the Nuclear Science Symposium Award and Merit Award in History at Port Neches-Groves.

David Martin Barnett was named top scholastic sophomore and merit awards in English, Biology, Algebra and History.

James Anthony Arisco was awarded top scholastic sophomore honors.

LAKE CHARLES: Gloria Jean Mathis, graduated from Washington High School with a B average, and will attend Sowela Institute in Lake Charles to study bookkeeping.



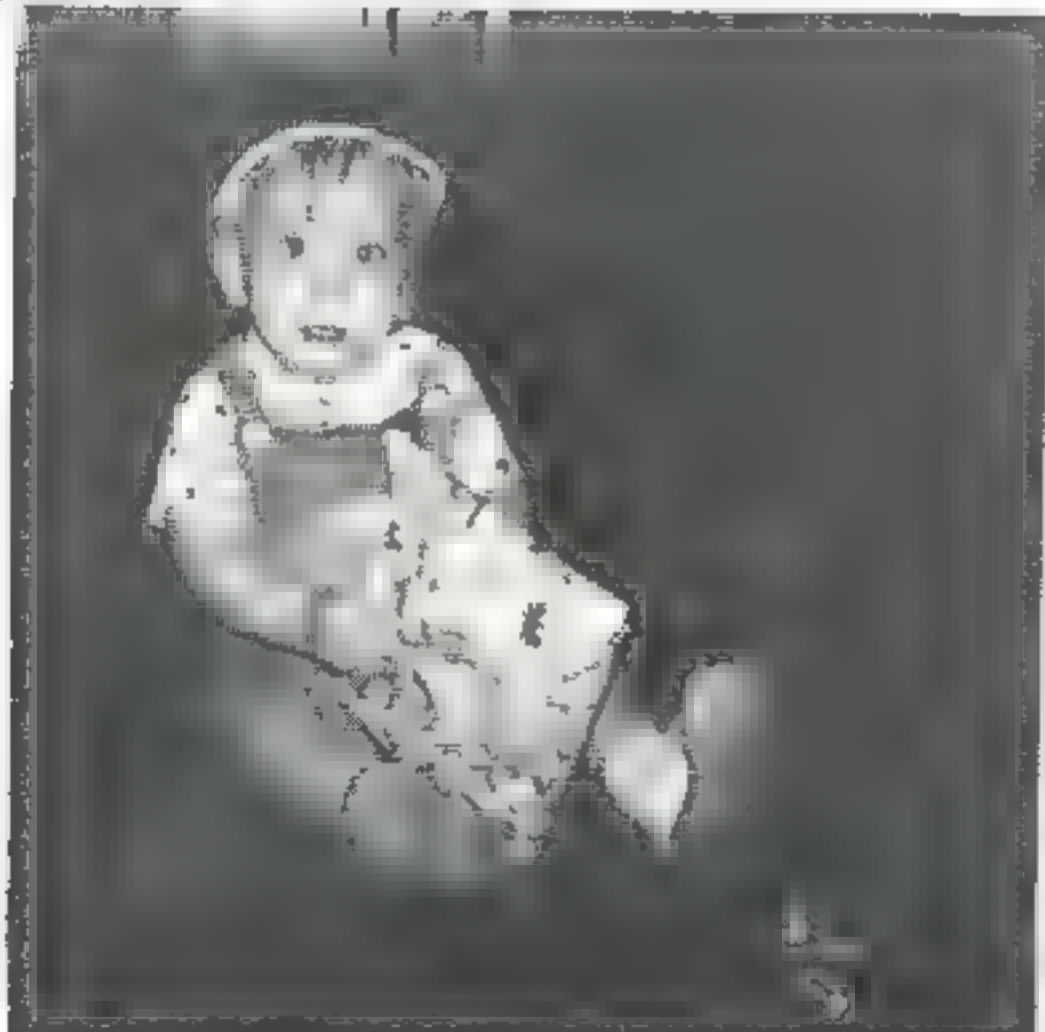
BUFFALO BEAUTIES—These two lovely ladies are both newly elected lieutenants of the French High School Buffalo Belles drill team in Beaumont. Both are far prettier than their fathers. On the left is Karen Thompson, daughter of R. G. Thompson (Engr. Design), and Terry Schumacher, daughter of W. J. Schumacher (Syst. Production). Both girls will be seniors.



La Petite Femme—Tiffany Ann Conn, five year old daughter of Douglas Conn and niece of Jerry Terry (Substation-Department Clerk in Beaumont), was crowned as Miss La Petite of Beaumont, and won a trip to the Astrodome for the the state finals. The state winner goes on to Niagra Falls, N.Y. Tiffany is a kindergarten student in Vidor, and also wears the crown of Our Little Miss Beaumont. (from Carolyn Motl)



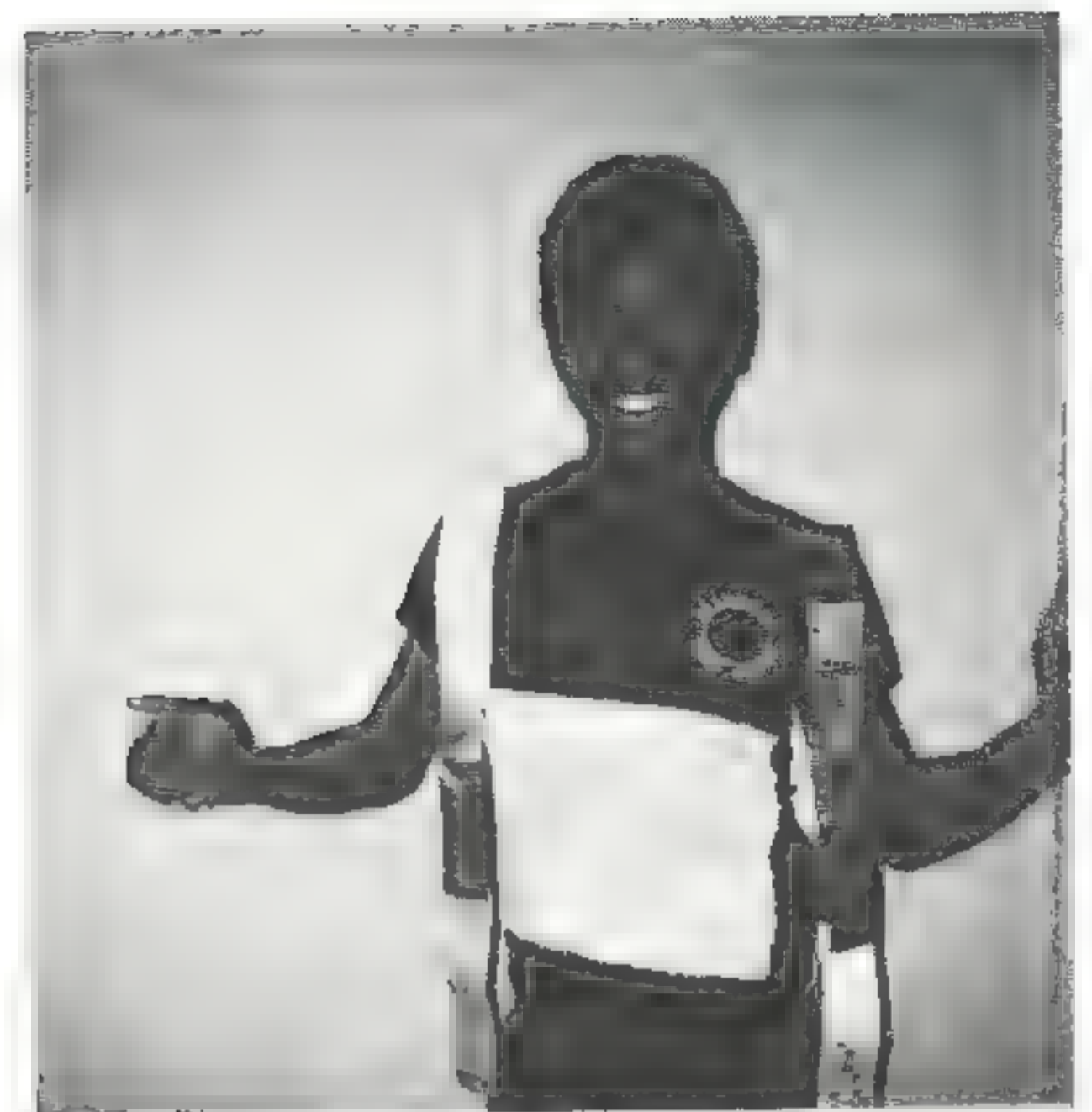
NEW SISTER—Three year old Sarah Griffith is all smiles as she holds her new baby sister, Hannah Beth. Little Hannah was born on May 28, and weighed in at seven pounds three ounces. The girls are the children of Rod and Vicki Griffith. Rod is Co-op engineer at the Beaumont Service Center. (from Carolyn Motl)



1ST BIRTHDAY—Young David Carpenter takes opening presents seriously. He just celebrated his first birthday and already is looking forward to the second. David already wears one gift, his new fishing hat. He is the son of Carter and Jennifer Carpenter. Carter is a meterman in the Baton Rouge office.



GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?—Keith Hays, a lineman in Woodville, doesn't spend all his time climbing poles. On a recent hunting trip to the Ty-Hard Hunting Club at Fort Terrain, Tex., Keith bagged this nice 21 and a quarter pound turkey. Good shooting.



FUTURE OLYMPIAN? If young Rodney Lee keeps on winning he could find himself some day representing his country in the Olympics. The 13-year old picked up five ribbons recently at the Golden Triangle Special Olympics sponsored by the YMBL of Beaumont. He won two second place ribbons, three third places and a fourth ranging in events from softball throwing to dash events. He is the son of Ivory Lee, Substation Department in Beaumont. (from Carolyn Motl)



SWEETHEART FINALIST—Darlene Fowler, daughter of Betty and Leonard Dickschat, won the Navasota FFA Sweetheart contest and finished third in competition with 19 other beauties. Betty is a clerk in the Navasota office. (from Marilyn Key)



BACK TO SCHOOL—Paul Strickland, co-op engineer in the Beaumont T&D Department, was given a farewell party prior to his going back to the University of Texas where he is working on an engineering degree. A Cross pen and pencil set was given him by his friends and co-workers. (from Carolyn Motl)



PROUD GRANDPA—Russell Gautreaux (Louisiana Station-Baton Rouge) is having a good time playing with his granddaughter Rachael. Little Rachael is nearly a year old in this picture. She is the daughter of Russell and Susan Gautreaux of Tulsa, Okla.

ON TO COLLEGE—Terrance Robin Jones, grandson of Frank Washington (T&D Helper-Substation Dept. in Lake Charles), has graduated from Sacramento (Calif.) High School. He plans to enroll at Sacramento City College to study Food Service and Electronics. (from Billie Blevin)



LITTLE DRIBBLERS—This girls basketball team captured the championship of the Junior Division Little Dribblers. The team compiled a record of 4-1, and was sponsored by Scott Drug and coached by GSUer Louis Sandidge. Kneeling, from left to right, Kim Crocker, Lydia Samuels, Shirlene Sandidge and Jennifer Clute. Second row, Tiffany Smith, Shana McCloud, Jodi Colwell and Sandy Ledbetter. At top is the coach, Louis Sandidge, Madisonville superintendent. (from Jean Tinsley)



GRADUATE—Margaret Ann Rice, daughter of Percy and Georgia Rice, has received her bachelor of science degree from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. Margaret majored in Clinical Microbiology. Georgia is a departmental clerk in Baton Rouge T&D. (from Margie Force)



A BIG CAT—Tom Clark, consumer service supervisor in System Marketing, and his two sons, Cary and Craig, show off a 12 pound, 35 inch catfish they caught on a recent trip to Toledo Bend Reservoir. It was one big one that didn't get away.



GOLDEN YEARS—Maurice Anawaty and his wife were guests as a retirement party given them by their friends and co-workers at the Beaumont Service Center. Maurice goes into his golden years the owner of a gold watch inscribed with his name, date of employment, and date of retirement. (from Carolyn Motl)

TOP STUDENT—Kenneth Griffin, son of Charlotte Griffin (Nuclear Training Dept.-Beaumont), was presented with an award testifying to his scholastic ability as he graduated from the 8th grade at Mac-Arthur Middle School in Beaumont. He was given the award for being selected "An Outstanding Student."

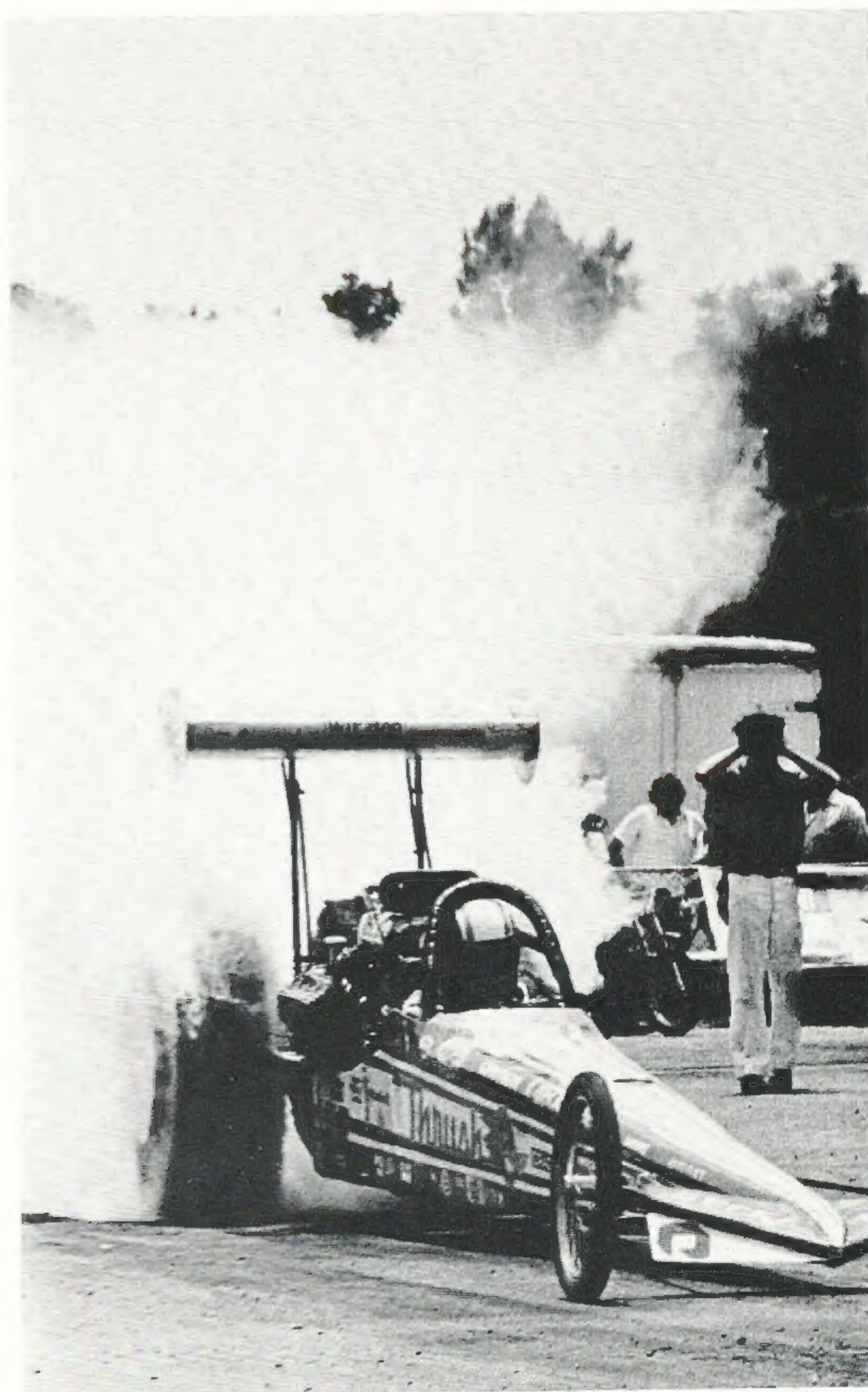


YOUR BEST SHOT

Almost everyone at one time or another has taken what he considers to be his "best shot."

If you have a best shot you would like to see reproduced here, send it, with the negative if possible, to the PLAIN TALKS office in Beaumont. Your picture can be of any subject, taken with any camera. If selected for use it will automatically be in the running for "Best Shot of the Year," with the winner receiving a nice plaque. Okay . . . take your best shot.

A sports photo earns its way into the finals this month. Joe Wilson, a meter reader at the main office in Baton Rouge, captured the dramatic start of a super dragster in a heat race at the Cajun Nationals in Erwinville, La. One can almost smell the burning rubber and hear the piercing scream of the engine as it is pushed to its limits trying to propell the dragster down the quarter mile straightaway.



Wilson used a Pentax 35mm camera with a 135 mm telephoto lens. A shutter speed of 1/500 of a second stopped the action.

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